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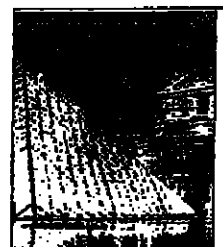
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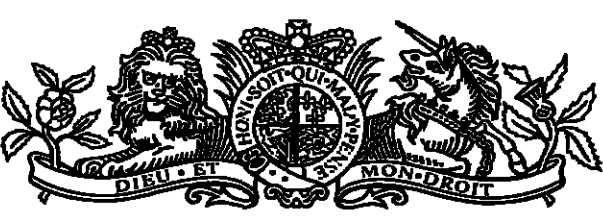
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THE TIMES



No. 65,222

THURSDAY MARCH 23 1995

Time to drop 'doing your own thing'

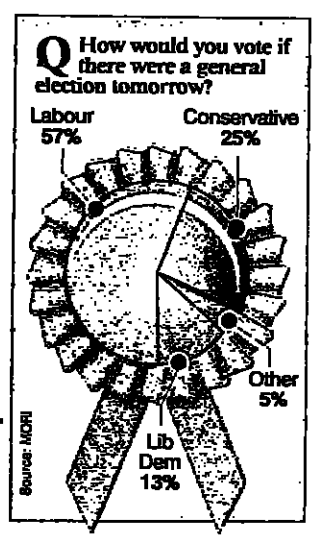
Blair courts voters with call to duty

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR stepped up his campaign to win over the middle class last night with a pledge to tackle crime, vandalism, truancy and drug abuse by emphasising the duties and responsibilities of every citizen.

Labour government would not hesitate to evict antisocial council tenants or to prosecute parents of persistent truants, he said, and it was time to abandon the "do your own thing" creed of the libertarian Left.

Giving *The Spectator* lecture in London, Mr Blair attacked both outdated left-wing thinking and the "narrow and destructive" individualism of the Tories, as he declared that Labour was reclaiming ideas such as duty and responsibility — mistakenly ceded to the Conservatives through the Thatcher era.



Labour is maintaining its opinion poll lead, according to a MORI poll for *The Times* last weekend showing no real recovery in support for the Conservatives or John Major.

The figures suggest that it would be suicidal for the Prime Minister to call an early election: his party shows support of 25 per cent, up a point. Labour is on 57 per cent, down one percentage point since late February; the Liberal Democrats have slipped to 13 per cent...Page 2

consistently refuse to behave reasonably and make life a misery for those around them. We will examine the procedures for taking action."

Parents had a duty — to their children and to others — to ensure that their offspring attended school and did not get up to "mischief or worse". They were under a legal obligation to ensure attendance and Labour would not be squeamish about enforcing this duty.

"Parents must of course be warned that repeated non-attendance by their children in school can lead to court. Children have a right to education and it is up to the State to defend their interests."

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Conservatives had regarded the notion of duty as their own. "Now, they seem neither to understand it nor act upon it."

But duty was "an essential Labour concept" at the heart of creating a strong community in which individuals could thrive. The old Left had made the mistake of confusing a strong society with an overbearing state and putting the granting of rights before responsibility.

"People need rules which we all stand by, fixed points of agreement which impose order over chaos." But that did not mean a return to deference, chaining women to the kitchen sink, and the old class structures.

"Duty is the cornerstone of a decent society. It recognises more than self. It defines the context in which rights are given. It is personal, but it is also owed to society."

"Respect for others, responsibility to them is an essential prerequisite of a strong and active community... Duty and civil society are inseparable. Without the first, the second breaks down; without the second, the first is an idle dream. By uniting the two, we can overcome the central weakness of the individualism of the new Right, while avoiding the pitfalls of the old Left."

Applauding government moves to fine people who kept their neighbours awake with booming hi-fis and rowdy all-night parties, Mr Blair said that action was also needed against those who failed to control their children, scattered rubbish everywhere and let dangerous dogs roam.

"Eviction for anti-social tenants should not be expensive, lengthy and wasteful," he said. "The answer is not a general reduction in tenants' rights, but effective action to deal with those tenants who

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Elizabeth Hurley, the actress and Estée Lauder cosmetics model, arrives at Southwark Crown Court yesterday

Liz Hurley tells of £10 mugging

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ELIZABETH HURLEY, the actress and model, was mobbed by cameramen when she returned to Britain yesterday for the trial of four girls accused of robbing her at knifepoint.

Mrs Hurley, 29, told a jury how she pushed through the gang of four who had pinned her against a wall and, after handing over a £10 note, was saved by a passing van driver.

"After I ran I was in a blind panic as the adrenalin hit me," she said. "I was shaking like a leaf. I was worried for my own safety: the upset came later."

Miss Hurley, the much publicised partner of actor Hugh Grant, flew in for the day from New York where she is engaged in a photo-shoot for the cosmetic company Estée Lauder, with which she has signed a £3-million contract.

On arrival at Southwark Crown Court she was mobbed

by over 50 cameramen. Miss Hurley, in dark glasses, a black designer jacket, tight black leggings and black boots, looked shaken by the welcome and remained trapped for two minutes by surging pressmen in the red BMW in which she had been driven from Heathrow.

Two minders accompanying her eventually forced a path through them into the building. She then had to wait for over three hours before giving evidence. The case was opened by Richard Onslow QC, prosecuting.

The trial of the girls was brought forward to ensure that Miss Hurley could be with Mr Grant in Hollywood for the Oscar awards ceremony next Monday.

The case of the four alleged muggers is expected to last three days, but after completing her evidence yesterday Miss Hurley left the court under police escort to return to

America. Three girls have pleaded not guilty to stealing £10 and a quantity of photographs from her on November 23 last year as she walked back to her home in Kensington.

They are Christina Guerrina, 18, Carlene Irving, 18, and a 17-year-old girl who may not be named. A fourth girl, also aged 17, has pleaded guilty to the charge.

Miss Hurley, who gave evidence for 90 minutes, paused only to ask for a glass of water. She told the jury of five women and seven men that the incident happened when she had left her office in The Little Boltons in Chelsea at about 7.15pm after she had stopped to pick up some photographs she had had developed.

As she walked with a large black bag over her shoulder, she heard "loud female voices" behind her and realised that four girls were walking close behind. She stepped aside to allow them to overtake, and when they were about six paces ahead she crossed the road, only to realise that they too had crossed.

"They suddenly turned round and fenced me, so there were four people in a semi-circle in front of me," she said. "One of them said: 'Give us your money'."

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Football star critically ill

Davie Cooper, 39, the Rangers winger who played 22 times for Scotland and won every domestic honour, was in critical condition last night after collapsing while filming a TV coaching programme. Page 40

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Receivers called in to administer Vestey family's business empire

By MELVYN MARCKUS, JON ASHWORTH AND ROBIN YOUNG

UNION International, one of the pillars of the wealthy Vestey family's private business empire, crashed into receivership yesterday.

Bankers had threatened to withdraw facilities unless a receiver was appointed to JH Dewhurst, the 300-strong butcher chain controlled by Union. Rather than accede to the request Union asked Lloyds Bank that it should itself be put into receivership.

The collapse marks the end of a three-year battle by the Vestey family to save the company. Lord Vestey and his cousin, Edmund, acknowledged the need to strengthen Union's management three years ago when Terry Robinson, a former Lloyds director, took over as chief executive.

Following a major reorganisation, the company turned a 1991 loss of £102 million into a pre-tax profit of £12.7 million for 1992. Last year's pre-tax profits were struck at £6.4 million.

Mr Robinson reduced Union's debts to £100 million or less, prompting one banker with no exposure to Union to

comment yesterday: "The timing seems strange. The banks are flush with cash and Union's debts could be as low as £50 million."

Since Mr Robinson's appointment some 450 of Dewhurst branches were axed at the cost of more than 1,000 jobs.

However, the retail chain was unable to compete with high street supermarkets such as Tesco and Safeways.

Union's decision to call in receivers was made at a board meeting at its Smithfield headquarters — dubbed "The Kremlin" — yesterday morning. Lloyds is the lead bank among Union's 55 lenders.

The directors decided that Union would be "unable to conclude its considered planned strategy" after a receiver was appointed to Dewhurst, despite having substantially reduced bank debt.

The Vestey empire, built up since 1897 when two brothers from Liverpool spotted the potential of frozen food imports, expanded into everything from cattle-ranching to margarine making, and brought the family a shipping line and insurance businesses.

The secretive Vestey family have never been strangers to controversy. It was skilful tax avoidance which helped them accumulate and keep vast

wealth. Since their change of fortunes in 1991, however, the family has been obliged to sell assets including its Australian cattle farms, which covered an area roughly the size of Europe, and to axe 20,000 jobs worldwide.

Union's demise coincides with a long running feud between Edmund Vestey and his eldest son, Tim, who was effectively bypassed when control of the family business was given to two younger sons.

Yesterday's events represent a humiliating blow to the Vestey family, who count themselves among Britain's richest and most secretive families. Lord Vestey, who turned 54 on Sunday, lives on a 5,000-acre estate in Gloucestershire and until recently, devoted a large part of his life to polo and horse racing. His cousin, Edmund, 63, lives in Saffron Walden, Essex, and has two other addresses, including a 100,000-acre estate in Scotland. Their wealth is estimated at £600 million.



The Dewhurst high street chain of shops has been unable to compete with supermarkets in the battle for customers

VJ wins the day over PC lobby

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT WILL BE VJ-Day after all. The White House has abandoned any attempt to use only politically correct diplomatic niceties in describing the 50th anniversary of Japan's surrender in September.

For months all official pronouncements in Washington have described VJ-Day as marking the "End of War in the Pacific" or "Victory in the Pacific", to the intense fury of those who served.

But the euphemisms were put in their place yesterday when President Clinton's spokesman, Mike McCurry, denied that the Administration was trying to change the name to bow to Japanese sensitivities. "The official name of the commemoration is the VJ-Day, end of the war in the Pacific, end of World War II," he said. "It's called VJ-Day. That's what it is."

The Japanese feel singled out because VE-Day — Victory in Europe — does not name a specific country. Britain uses VJ-Day, but the Australians have agreed to "Victory in the Pacific Day".

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The MP's guide to doing it by the book

On a shelf in *The Times's* room in the Commons sits a slim blue volume: the *Register of Members' Interests*. Its purpose "to provide information of any pecuniary interest or other material benefit which a Member receives which might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions, speeches or votes in Parliament, or actions taken in his or her capacity as an MP". In general, the theory works. Scandals involving MPs' interests are unusual. When they occur the register is there as our lodestar.

But of course financial scandals are hardly the flavour of the era. It is sexual scandals that now dominate

the media. Could the thinking behind the register have a wider application?

Wild horses would not drag her name into this column, but a respected lady Labour MP has put to me an intriguing idea. What Ms Short — oops — suggests is ingenious. To take the wind from Peter Tatchell's sails, she suggests, why not set up a *Register of Members' Sexual Interests*?

It might need to go into many volumes. This column proposes that, as with the financial register that includes separate sections for "visits", "shareholdings", etc., each MP's chapter in this register would include sections. The first would be "Orientation". This would



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

contain simple guidance: "straight", "gay", "lesbian", "bisexual" — or "celibate" (for Sir Edward Heath).

There would need to be a section entitled "Status". Here, we suggest, the MP should say whether he or she had a permanent partner, whether married, whether keeping a mistress for a toyboy. It is suggested, too, that in this section the MP might enter any claim they wished to make to sexual fidelity. An absence of such a claim would be taken to

indicate that no promises were to be implied.

I think there might also be a "Special Interests" section. This would take a similar form to the "Hobbies" question in *Who's Who*. It is suggested that "research assistants" would not be a suitable entry under this section. For Mrs Currie the thrill of swinging handcuffs at party conferences is probably political. I could name other MPs, however, whose interest in police weaponry borders on the obsessive. This would also be the

place to mention Chelsea strips, and, in the case of one former MP, "rumpy-pumpy in the showers". Just as the financial register contains a section for foreign visits, so should this one. It would not be necessary to recite what happened. We can assume it.

Still for decision is whether actual occasions as well as general predilections should be declared. In order to confine our register to one bookshelf, I suggest not.

Why, you ask, should MPs volunteer to the press the means for further ridiculous stories? You misunderstand. The purpose is to kill the hysteria, not to feed it to take the excitement from the hunt, by open disclosure. The register would be published on

December 31, on the morning the New Year Honours list is declared. The effect of deluging the media with so many stories all at once would be to diffuse the focus on any individual one: an editor's nightmare.

What MPs don't realise (and for a moment I am serious) is that nothing more spoils a reporter's day than the response "so what else is new?" Fear is oxygen to an investigative journalist. Like bulllocks in a field, reporters follow anything that runs. Like bulllocks in a field, they have no horns but once momentum has built up they will trample. Those too craven to stop running invite their fate.

Tories flounder in poll as Labour consolidates lead

By Peter Riddell and Nicholas Wood

LABOUR has consolidated its large opinion poll lead over the Tories. A MORI survey for *The Times* shows that support for the Tories and the Prime Minister is bouncing along at the low levels of recent months and there is no sign of recovery.

The latest figures suggest it would be suicidal for Mr Major or a successor to call an early election but Tony Blair warned the Shadow Cabinet last night that the Tories might be close to replacing John Major with Michael Heseltine and calling a snap election. Kenneth Clarke scorned the suggestion, saying the Government would see out its term.

Mr Blair said the most likely prospect "is that the Government will go full term, but their discipline is so seriously breaking down that we must be prepared for any eventuality". He said Labour was looking upon as a government-in-waiting and the debate over Clause Four had given the party a great deal of momentum.

MORI shows the Tories on 25 per cent, up a point over last month. They have been below 30 per cent since April 1993.

Labour is on 57 per cent, down one point since late February, around its high levels since last summer. The Liberal Democrats slipped one point to 13 per cent.

There has been a very slight increase in Mr Major's personal approval ratings, generally and among Tory supporters, to their highest level since November, but these are minor fluctuations.

Mr Blair's personal rating has risen to its highest since he was elected Labour leader.

Blair defied over wages

Trade union leaders are to set a figure for a national minimum wage, against the wishes of Tony Blair. The executive committee of the TUC agreed yesterday to fix a precise figure in due course, which John Monks, its General Secretary, said would be before the next election. Mr Blair has said that Labour will introduce a statutory minimum, but that its level cannot be fixed ahead of economic circumstances.

More than half the public approve of his performance, with a fifth disapproving.

Many Tories believe a drubbing in the May council elections will put renewed pressure on Mr Major but the Chancellor dismissed such talk. While backtracking from his pessimistic assessment last week, that political recovery would lag far behind economic recovery, he restated that political uncertainties were undermining the pound.

"We have a healthy economic recovery... The problem has been a slightly political one: political uncertainties, the frenzied political debate. This is mistaken. The Government is going to stay in office over the next couple of years."

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,999 adults in 149 sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face between March 17 and 20. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party.

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Some of the 400 soldiers of the 5th Regiment Royal Artillery who left Northern Ireland yesterday in the first big troop withdrawal since the paramilitary ceasefires

Sinn Fein talks

Continued from page 1
a single ounce of explosives. All you have to do is tell Michael Ancram you are prepared to talk, give them a form of words, and the Government's position collapses and he rushes into talks. This week loyalist paramilitaries, next week Sinn Fein IRA.

The speed of the Government's meeting with representatives of the Ulster Democratic Party and the Progressive Unionist Party took MPs by surprise. Downing Street confirmed that it had received the commitment the Government required only on Tuesday.

Mr Ancram was in upbeat mood after his four hours of talks at the Stormont Parliament building. He said: "We had a substantial discussion on an exploratory basis on the decommissioning of arms and the ways decommissioning might take place."

The loyalists claimed that they had not softened their

stance on the decommissioning of arms. Billy Hutchinson, of the Progressive Unionists, who have links to the Ulster Volunteer Force, said that weapons would not be surrendered until trust is established between loyalists and republicans. In a significant move, however, he said the party was prepared to discuss the methods and modalities of arms surrender.

Mr Hutchinson added that he did not discuss the actual surrender. "There was no way that we said guns would be taken to a certain point and be destroyed. We talked about the legalities of it — what happens if someone moves guns from A to B to be taken out of commission? What happens to those people who are caught with those guns?"

Mr McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member, said last night that he expected to meet a minister shortly. "I think the expectation of most people will now be that the British Government will decide to send a minister to meet Sinn Fein."

Mr McGuinness, who has been leading the Sinn Fein delegation in its exploratory talks with Government officials, dismissed Mr Ancram's demand for further assurances on the decommissioning of weapons.

He said: "I am not actually sure that is their position. I think we have to wait and see the content of [his] letter, but my expectation would be that the British Government will recognise that if this process is to move on then ministers must be involved with Sinn Fein."



Ancram: in upbeat mood

Hurley testifies at mugging trial

Continued from page 1
your money." The girl on my right was white with short dark hair, and there were three black girls, one bigger and two smaller ones.

"They closed ranks and looked aggressively at me. I was stunned. I think I said something probably rather stupid like: 'Is this a joke?' They all seemed to speak, the upshot being no, it wasn't a joke. One of the girls said: 'It's not a joke, she's got a knife.'"

"I looked down and saw the second girl on the left had a knife pointing at my stomach about an inch away."

Miss Hurley added: "At that stage the girl probably on my right said: 'And she will use it, you know.' The girl holding the

knife said something like: 'How would you like to be stabbed with this, how would you like me to stab you?' They were very close."

Hurley said it was probably a six-inch kitchen knife. A knife was shown to the jury later.

Miss Hurley says she unzipped her shoulder bag and handed over a £10 note. "They sort of sneered and said: 'That is not enough.' They said something like: 'We can't even get some Big Macs with that. Give us some more or give us your purse.'"

At that point, Miss Hurley alleged, she could no longer tolerate being held against the wall and pushed her attackers aside on the spur of the moment. But as

NEWS IN BRIEF

Complaints up 135% since NHS reforms

Complaints about the National Health Service have more than doubled since the launch of the Government's reforms in 1991, latest figures show. More than 87,000 patients made written complaints about hospital treatment in 1993-94, a 49 per cent rise on the year before. In 1990-91 the figure was 37,000. A further 2,500 people made formal complaints about GPs last year.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, defended the rise, saying the Patient's Charter had ensured that the public were "no longer passive recipients of care". She also announced a new complaints system, including giving the NHS ombudsman power to consider clinical complaints.

Mrs Mellor's decree nisi

Mrs Judith Mellor, right, the wife of David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, has obtained a decree nisi at the High Court in London. Mrs Mellor, 45, who married the MP for Putney in 1974, must wait six weeks for a decree absolute. The couple, who have two sons, decided to divorce after Mr Mellor disclosed that he was having a relationship with Lady Penelope Cobham.



A nation on computer

Details of every person in Britain will be held on a new database being prepared as part of an overhaul of national insurance records. The name, date of birth, sex, marital status, income and employment history of every man and woman over 16 will be recorded. The database will also include the reference number given to every newborn child and details about child benefit. Such a store of information could form the basis of an identity card system currently being discussed by ministers.

Rail tunnel rejected

A plea for the £2.9 billion Channel Tunnel rail link to go through a five-mile tunnel under the Bodley Valley in Kent, an area of outstanding natural beauty, was rejected by MPs yesterday. Sir Tony Durant, chairman of the Commons select committee examining the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill, said the case for the locally backed proposal had not been proved. Its cost has been estimated at between £75 million and £120 million, depending upon whether a single-bore or twin-bore tunnel is required.

Stephen Fry in hospital

The actor Stephen Fry is being treated for depression at the £95 per night Cromwell Hospital in Kensington, west London, his agent confirmed last night. Mr Fry returned to Britain at the weekend after four weeks abroad. The West End play *Cell Mates*, which he left after three days after unflattering reviews, is to close on Saturday with estimated losses of £300,000. The play's author Simon Gray accused Fry of behaving "in the most cowardly fashion".

Dinosaur feeding habit



The 20-ton dinosaur *Diplodocus*, above, may have used its peg-like teeth like a rake to strip leaves from trees, according to two Cambridge scientists. Paul Barrett and Paul Upchurch claim in *New Scientist* that this would explain the mysterious wear marks on the outside of the front teeth of the dinosaur. The *Diplodocus* would have had to feed this efficiently to obtain the 300kg of leaves it needed a day to maintain its weight.

Sumo statue beheaded

Vandals decapitated a second sculpture in Scotland, days after a similar attack on a Henry Moore bronze. A severed head from David Mach's *Sumo Wrestlers*, on display at Leith Docks, Edinburgh, was found on a bench. The 15th statue used to stand outside Euston station in London.

Leading article, page 17

Fire helmet safety row



The Fire Brigades Union has attacked a decision by councillors in Cheshire to scrap the traditional fireman's helmet, left, and spend £100,000 on a high-tech French version, right. The county council will vote next week on buying the helmets, which have built-in goggles, a heat-reflective visor and attachments for a microphone and earpiece. Dave Higgs, union spokesman, said: "The helmet does not meet the British standard. It's disgraceful that Cheshire is prepared to buy equipment that does not meet safety standards."

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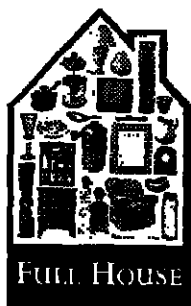
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Judge fra cost

A JUDGE, who presides over a successful £4 million mortgage fraud trial, yesterday defended the ability of jurors to follow complex cases if the evidence was computerised.

Judge May said that, in use of a document retention system to store 17,000 pages of files on compact discs, had saved much time and money during the trial of Roy Wharton, chairman of Castlebar Securities, who was sentenced to five years in prison for fraud in October 1993.

For the first time, the jurors, judge counsel, solicitors and witnesses were able to view evidence, graphics and videos on screen. But the Serious Fraud Office refused to allow publication of research conducted among the jurors, despite overwhelming support for the technology.

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Judge May said: "The time

Evidence 'oppressive and unmanageable'

Judge abandons fraud trial at cost of £2 million

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

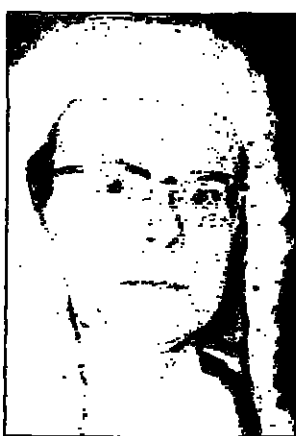
A SIX-MONTH fraud trial costing an estimated £2 million collapsed yesterday when the judge ruled that the evidence was too difficult for the jury to understand.

Judge Crowther's decision to discharge the jury of seven men and five women at Newport, Gwent, came after defence barristers argued that the enormous amount of evidence had become "oppressive and unmanageable". MPs called for an inquiry into the collapse, which will reopen the debate on whether fraud cases are suitable for juries.

The case, in which seven businessmen had denied charges of conspiracy to defraud, could not be tried in existing court premises in South Wales and an office block was hired for £160,000. Three weeks and £40,000 were spent fitting out the former Marconi offices as a Crown Court, with pine panelling and computer screens. Four warehouse rooms were set aside to store the mountain of papers.

On discharging the jury from giving verdicts, the judge said that he could not know whether the jury would understand enough evidence to be capable of reaching a proper verdict. Yesterday, one of the defendants, Chris O'Callaghan, an investment broker from Cardiff, claimed the case was so baffling that he had seen two jurors playing noughts and crosses.

The trial, which had another four months to run, centred on an alleged £8.5 million mortgage fraud involving a plot to buy four



Crowther: discharged jury

houses in Belgravia, west London, owned by the Duke of Westminster, as an embassy for the Malaysian Government. The defendants were said to have inflated the values of properties in the area using bogus surveys. All denied the charges.

Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport East, condemned the decision to abandon the trial. "This is a total waste of taxpayers' money and I will be raising this with the Lord Chancellor," he said. Alun Michael, Opposition home affairs spokesman, is asking ministers and the Crown Prosecution Service to hold an inquiry.

Crown Court trials cost on average £7,500 a day, although fraud trials are far more expensive because of the huge volume of evidence involved and the frequent need to collect it, as in this case, from overseas. The Lord Chancellor's Department's costs in running the trial are estimated to be some £1.2 million, with the rest of the £2

million accounted for in legal aid fees.

Over the past few days defence barristers argued that the case had become "oppressive and unmanageable". Judge Crowther admitted that his summing up alone, had the trial continued to its conclusion in July, would have taken 14 days. Before discharging the jury, he said he wanted to avoid an "expensive disaster", but he said it was his "very reluctant duty" to direct the jury to acquit the seven. He doubted jurors would comprehend or remember much of the evidence by the time they retired in July or August.

The judge directed the jury to bring in not-guilty verdicts on Khanwal Dhimani, 53, a financier, of Croyborough, East Sussex, charged with obtaining money by deception from a building society, and Robert Couzens, 46, a surveyor, from Pinner, northwest London, for conspiracy to defraud. He then discharged the jury from giving verdicts against six defendants also charged with conspiracy, including Mr Dhimani. The charges remain on the file. The Crown Prosecution Service is expected today to decide whether to discontinue all charges.

The other five were Mr O'Callaghan, 57, a former Cambridge rugby blue and an investment broker, of Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff; Kenwyn Rees Jones, 54, businessman, of Barry, South Glamorgan; Stuart Wren, 43, business agent, of Chislehurst, Kent; and Sam Subramanian, 47, and his brother Kanaga, 48, company representatives, of Wembley, northwest London.



Anita Gaze refused an invitation to an executive's hotel room. She later lost her job

Trainee invited for coffee loses sex-bias claim

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A WOMAN who claimed that she was sacked by the Abbey National after refusing an invitation to an executive's hotel room lost her sex-discrimination case yesterday.

Anita Gaze, 30, a trainee financial adviser, alleged that David Mosely, 43, a branch manager with the bank, had invited her for coffee and "to see what else might pop up" after celebrations to mark the end of a six-week training course.

Mrs Gaze, of Moortown, Dorset, claimed that the next day he failed her in her building society examinations. Earlier he had praised her selling skills. She was subsequently sacked from her post at the branch in Wimborne, Dorset.

An industrial tribunal in Southampton ruled yesterday that Mr Mosely's invitation to coffee was delivered as "lighthearted banter" and that his marking of Mrs Gaze's assessment was accurate and fair. Mrs Gaze said that she was "numb with shock" at the finding.

She had alleged that Mr Mosely "stared menacingly" at her when she refused his invitation in a lift after dining and drinking with other employees at an hotel in Cardiff. She said that he had criticised marriage and the Abbey National to her. She had been married for only two months at the time. Mr

Mosely, manager of the bank's Taunton branch, who has worked for Abbey National for 21 years, denied all the allegations. He said that he had invited Mrs Gaze for a cup of coffee but his comment was a flippant one, made as a joke.

He told the tribunal: "I was due to assess her the following day and she asked how she could be sure of passing. Taken out of context my answer may seem strange. But I said, 'We can talk about it over a cup of coffee later.' It was said in a flippant context."

In its findings the tribunal said: "We are aware that even jocular approaches can, in the eyes of the recipient, amount to discrimination if they are unwarranted and unwelcome. We find as a fact in this case that this was all part of the lighthearted banter of which the applicant was well aware and so took it at the time... The probability is that she now seeks to explain her own shortcomings in the assessment by the suggestion that it was deliberate down-marking by Mr Mosely because she shunned his proposition."

A spokesman for the bank said last night: "This has put a great deal of stress on Mr Mosely. He is very pleased and feels that he has been totally vindicated. His future with the Abbey National has always been totally assured."

Computerised evidence speeds course of justice

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE, who presided over a successful £45 million mortgage fraud trial last year, yesterday defended the ability of jurors to follow complex cases if the evidence was computerised.

Judge May said that the use of a document retrieval system to store 17,000 core files on compact discs had saved much time and money during the trial of Roy Wharton, chairman of Castlegate Securities, who was sentenced to five years by Oxford Crown Court in October. He had been found guilty of defrauding 100 mainly elderly investors out of their savings.

For the first time, the jurors, judge, counsel, solicitors and witnesses were able to view evidence, graphics and videos on screen. But the Serious Fraud Office has refused to allow publication of research conducted among the jurors, despite overwhelming support for the technology.

Judge May said: "The time



Judge May: high-tech aid

savings were significant. It meant that the jury and others were not regularly spending time looking for numerous documents in bundles. The trial lasted four months but I estimate the time saved because of the technology was some 25 to 30 per cent."

The system, produced by Legal Technologies, enabled counsel to take home 17,000 documents and 90 graphics

stored on their laptop computers — the equivalent of 88 Lever Arch files. They could then review the evidence overnight and save delays during court time.

There was also automatic daily transcription by computer of the proceedings, saving the need for lawyers or the judge to take notes.

Judge May said: "The simultaneous transcription enabled witnesses to give their evidence freely without constant interruptions." Jurors were helped by having key parts of the document highlighted for them on the screen, he added.

"With this kind of technology, I believe a jury would be well able to follow a complex fraud case," Judge May said.

For the first time, tentative jury research was conducted during the trial. Jurors were asked to fill in a questionnaire on whether they found the technology useful.

Their verdict was extremely positive. The Serious Fraud Office, however, has refused to allow the findings to be published.

Hatton all smiles after acquittal

BY KATE ALDERSON

DEREK HATTON, the former deputy leader of Liverpool council, was acquitted yesterday of stealing a £45,000 horsebox and making a false insurance claim.

Mr Hatton, 47, gasped in relief at the verdict. Smiling and winking, he turned to the jury, which had deliberated for almost six hours, and mouthed: "Thanks very much."

After this second Crown Court acquittal in two years, Mr Hatton stood on the steps of Manchester Crown Court and praised his "wonderful" legal team, joking: "O.J. Simpson has just been on the phone asking for their numbers."

Referring to his trial at Mold Crown Court in 1993, when he was acquitted of conspiracy to defraud Liverpool City Council, Mr Hatton, of Wavertree, Liverpool, said: "These are the 13th and 14th charges where I have had to prove my innocence. I hope it is the end."

A business associate, David Godsell, 39, was found not guilty of theft and of aiding and abetting the horsebox insurance claim.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



The world of exteriors

THE NEW ENGLISH GARDEN AND ITS DESIGNERS

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Press intrusion will deter talented people from taking public office, says Chancellor

Clarke condemns 'absurd' hounding of Pennant-Rea

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE said yesterday that it was "absurd" that Rupert Pennant-Rea had been hounded out of the Bank of England by press disclosures about his private life.

The Chancellor added his voice to those of senior Tories who said that the present unforgiving climate would make it harder to find talented people prepared to accept public office. He had made clear to Mr Pennant-Rea that he saw no reason why he should resign as deputy governor of the Bank of England in the wake of his former mistress's expose of their three-year affair.

It is understood that Mr Clarke met the deputy governor shortly before he announced his resignation. The Chancellor accepted that Mr Pennant-Rea had made his decision to step down and did not try to dissuade him.

Downing Street officials were more circumspect than Mr Clarke, saying only that any resignation was a "matter of regret" and that the Government had not sought Mr Pennant-Rea's departure. Although John Major has made

plain that he would expect any minister or senior official embroiled in scandal to resign, he is not insisting on a counsel of perfection.

The Chancellor told a news conference at Conservative Central Office: "I personally did not see any reason for him to leave public life. I made it quite clear to him as far as I was concerned he could stay. It's absurd to lose a deputy governor of the Bank of England because some newspaper wish to print stories about his private life."

"I am personally very sorry to lose an extremely good deputy governor in that way. Those who are responsible for hounding him out of office must ask themselves what public good they think they have done."

The Chancellor praised Mr Pennant-Rea's work in strengthening the management structure of the Bank and his handling of the Barings crisis. Finding a successor would be harder because of the circumstances of the deputy governor's departure. "Any successor is now going to ask himself whether he can take a job like



Clarke: regretted outcome

this unless there is nothing in his private life that might sell newspapers," Mr Clarke said.

In his resignation letter, Mr Pennant-Rea also suggested that there would be fewer private-sector candidates for his job. "I know that many good people in the commercial world are put off by the tabloid intrusion into the private lives of those in public positions. After the events of the past few days, this reluctance to move will increase," Mr Pennant-

Rea, who earned £180,000, will receive a maximum pay-off of £45,000. Top executives of the Bank are not expected to accept further employment for three months without the consent of the Governor.

Tim Yeo, forced to resign as an Environment Minister in January last year after fathering a child in an extra-marital affair, also suggested that potential high-flyers might be put off public office by the risk of media scrutiny of their private lives. The Tory MP for Suffolk South said on BBC radio: "What seemed to me rather depressing about the debate over Rupert Pennant-Rea was that hardly anybody was asking the question, 'Is he good at his job?'"

"It seems to me that if you want to have a banking system you need people of financial integrity, a high level of competence and good judgment and really, if they have colourful private lives, that is not the main criteria." However, he did not believe the answer lay in new laws to protect privacy.

William Rees-Mogg and Diary, page 16
Letters, page 17



Rupert Pennant-Rea arriving at the Bank of England yesterday afternoon

Wayward iceberg comes to a halt on seabed

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE giant iceberg that broke free from Antarctica's shrinking ice-sheets last month has run aground on the seabed.

Scientists with the British Antarctic Survey said that the iceberg, known as A25 and said to be about the size of Oxfordshire, had come to a halt in the ocean south of the Falkland Islands after travelling several miles a day. A spokesman for the survey said yesterday that it could remain stuck for ten years or more.

The iceberg's split from Antarctica provided dramatic evidence of the impact of global warming. Scientists have also found that James Ross Island, which has been connected to Antarctica by ice since records began to be kept, is now circumnavigable.

Professor Robert Crawford of the University of St Andrews said yesterday: "We are seeing exactly similar effects in the Arctic. There are islands we thought were peninsulas that you can now sail around since last summer."

He has also discovered that Arctic flowers favouring warmer temperatures are spreading into land previously too cold for them. Studies of *Saxifrage oppositifolia*, which is the most common plant around Spitsbergen, 700 miles from the North Pole, have shown that it has scores of varieties adaptable to different temperatures.

Professor Crawford said yesterday that those adapted to warmer climates had begun to take the ascendancy. "They are now spreading into the previously colder habitats." Temperatures in the area have risen by 9C since the beginning of the century.

Politicians, scientists and environmentalists will meet in Berlin next week to discuss tougher international controls on power stations, transport and industry.

I'm victim too, says ditched lover

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE former mistress of Rupert Pennant-Rea claimed yesterday that she was as much a victim as her former lover. Mary Ellen Synon, 44, said she too had suffered after a newspaper had published her account of their relationship.

Ms Synon, a freelance journalist from Virginia, said she knew how he was feeling because in 1993 she had lost her job at *The Economist*, which Mr Pennant-Rea — whom she had nicknamed Roo — edited until his appointment as deputy governor of the Bank of England two years ago.

"It is a disaster for Rupert: it was a disaster for me. I got through it on my own. Roo has his parents, his family and money in the bank. By the time this article is in print, somebody will have

offered him a job. Rupert is lucky, even in disasters, maybe not so lucky in love."

Writing in the *London Evening Standard*, Ms Synon denied that she had been paid for her story. She went on: "I did not much want Rupert to lose his job. Did I ever say I wanted him to lose it? A hundred times. Did I mean it? Maybe twice. If Rupert was looking for a woman with an even temper, he should not have looked in Ireland."

The couple, who first met as students at Trinity College, Dublin, in the 1960s, exchanged many romantic letters, which she had kept for sentimental reasons, not as a "pension plan". "I can feel pity for him today, but tomorrow I will remember his cruelty to me."

Ms Synon said her thrice married ex-lover was exceedingly attractive to women. His appeal extended beyond his ex-

pert knowledge on the chairman of the US Federal Reserve: "Three brides and more than one ex-girlfriend suggest that Roo offers something more interesting than a good line on Alan Greenspan."

She recalled: "Rupert first caught my eye in 1976. There was no power then for me to be drawn to, indeed it was a tribute to my simple nature that I was not put off by his bicycle clips. But Rupert had the failure of being over-eager. I ran."

She had kept "everything Rupert touched — the envelopes on which he wrote my name, the ribbons that were tied around the books he gave me, even the leaders he wrote in *The Economist*". Quoting a journalist's comment that Mr Pennant-Rea was "ponderous on derivatives", she added: "I found Rupert divine on everything."

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Thriving children confound official guidance on eating

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

TODAY'S pre-school children are taller and heavier than those of 25 years ago, despite a diet that falls short of the Government's recommendations on energy intake.

They eat too little fruit and vegetables, too much salt and sugar, and many are deficient in iron. But the results of the most detailed inquiry into the diet of children aged between 1½ and 4½ are "generally reassuring", according to Dr Jeremy Metters, the deputy chief medical officer.

The paradox that children who are apparently not getting enough energy in their diets are nevertheless flourishing suggests that the guidelines must be wrong, Dr Metters said. But he admitted that iron deficiency, found in a quarter of children between 1½ and 2½, was a concern. Higher intake of breakfast cereals or meat, especially liver, was an obvious remedy.

There was also evidence that sugar consumption was about double that recommended for the public as a whole, representing 19 per cent of total energy against a target of 10. Soft drinks and confectionery were the main sources of those sugars.

Vitamin intakes were generally satisfactory, though about one in 12 of the children was below target levels for vitamin A and vitamin D, consistent with their eating too little fruit and vegetables. About one in five children took dietary sup-

DIET

■ **Most popular foods:** biscuits, white bread, non-diet soft drinks, whole milk, savoury snacks, potatoes, sweets (all eaten by more than 70 per cent of the sample)

■ **Regular foods:** sausages, chicken, beef, apples, pears, bananas, eggs, cheese, pasta, cereals, cakes, carrots, peas, baked beans, (eaten by about 50 per cent)

■ **Least favourite:** green vegetables, raw vegetables, salad, citrus fruit, fruit juice, fish, liver, pork, lamb, rice, butter, margarine, burgers (eaten by less than 40 per cent of sample)

■ **Oddities:** A third of the toddlers drank tea, 7 per cent coffee, and 1 per cent wine. There were no beer drinkers.

plements but generally the children whose mothers gave them supplements already got sufficient vitamins from food.

The survey was carried out by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys and the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Unit at Cambridge, who asked the parents of almost 1,700 children to provide details of everything eaten by the child over a period of four days. Height, weight and other measurements were made and in some cases a blood test was done.

The same children then had a dental examination.

There was evidence that parents were taking note of campaigns to cut dietary fat. That provided 36 per cent of total energy among the children studied, compared with 40 per cent in the last comparable survey in 1968. Children from one-parent families tended to have higher intakes of fat and lower intakes of minerals and vitamins.

Average iron intakes were low, with a quarter of those in the youngest age group below recommended levels. All that was needed to keep iron levels up was to eat meat once a week, Dr Metters said.

The data on dental decay showed that it had fallen sharply since 1968, when 40 per cent of the age group had some decayed teeth, compared with only 17 per cent now.

A third of the younger age group (1½ to 2½) were using bottles every night and a quarter contained sugary drinks. But almost all the children (98 per cent) were brushing their teeth or having them brushed, nearly all with fluoride toothpaste.

Dr Howard Denner, the Ministry of Agriculture's Chief Food Scientist, said it was very difficult for parents to deny children sweets and chocolates. "No sensible person wants to cut out treats altogether," he said. "All the Government can do is to offer advice to parents — we can't knock on everybody's door and put them in prison for not following the guidelines."



Hawthorne: nominated

'Poor old Nige' distressed by outing claims

By ANDREW PIERCE

FRIENDS of Nigel Hawthorne last night condemned the homosexual "outing" campaign that has threatened to overshadow the actor's appearance at next week's Oscars ceremony.

Hawthorne, 65, who has never made a secret of his homosexuality, fears that gay rights demonstrators will target him when he arrives at the ceremony in Los Angeles.

The actor, nominated for his role in *The Madness of King George*, was reported earlier this week to be planning to come out at the ceremony after giving an interview with *Advocate*, the



Trevor Bentham yesterday: Oscars excitement has been muddled by controversy

American gay campaigning magazine. Hawthorne had said he would share the triumph of his Oscars appearance with Trevor Bentham, his partner of 17 years. Mr Bentham, 51, said: "There is no coming out to be done. There has never been any secret about Nigel's sexuality or the way we live. It is just very sad that at this stage, when poor old Nige is about to go up for one of the nicest things that has ever

happened to him, it should be turned into something else. "I will be joining Nigel in America because I have always accompanied him to this sort of function. We are looking forward to having a fun time, but this has muddled everything."

The article has fanned the controversy over outing and OutRage!, the group led by Peter Tatchell that urges clergy and MPs to publicly admit their homosexuality.

Mr Bentham, who lives with Hawthorne in Radwell, Hertfordshire, said: "We have no axe to grind or banners to wave and we are not supporters of Peter Tatchell. We are not like that."

The writer Anthony Holden, a close friend of Hawthorne, said: "Nigel is a private person and would hate to be accused of being outed or coming out. He has no sympathy for that sort of thing."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers warned on milk pollution

The National Rivers Authority gave a warning to dairy farmers yesterday about the risk of polluting rivers when spreading surplus milk on their land. It said that milk stripped water of its oxygen, killing fish and other river life, and caused far worse pollution than raw sewage.

Cannabis ship

A Royal Navy warship helped customs officers to end a £10 million drug-smuggling scheme when it intercepted a rig supply ship off Cornwall. Three tonnes of cannabis was seized and 12 men arrested at sea and on land, ending a two-month operation.

Worker sacked

Errol Brown, 31, a social worker who asked for £10,000 from a Gloucester newspaper in exchange for information about the five younger children of Rosemary West, the alleged mass murderer, was sacked by Gloucestershire County Council.

Pennine eagle

A golden eagle has made a rare appearance in the North Yorkshire Pennines, according to the Bird Information Service. The young bird, with a wingspan of about 7ft, was seen on Tuesday over Grimwith Reservoir, 12 miles north of Skipton.

Knebworth off

This summer's Knebworth rock concert has been cancelled because the promoters could not sign enough stars. The show, in aid of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Charity, was originally planned for July 1. It was last held in 1990.

Living legend

Sir Simon Rattle, music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, unveiled a nameplate on a Boeing 757 after he was chosen from competition entries to be the first living person to have a British Airways aircraft named after him.

Judge bars Nazi victim's £28m case



Paprocki: sued Germany

A SURVIVOR of the Warsaw ghetto whose family estates in Poland were devastated by the Nazis lost her claim yesterday for £28 million damages against the German government (Emma Wilkins writes).

A judge ruled at the High Court in London that Zofia Paprocki, a Roman Catholic with Jewish antecedents, can pursue her action in Poland or Germany but not through the British legal system.

She had claimed that the Maastricht treaty allowed her to sue the German Government through its London embassy. Last year Miss

Paprocki, 54, of Cricklewood, north London, was awarded judgment with damages to be assessed after filing a writ against the Bonn government claiming £28 million.

After hearing argument from counsel for the German Government, Mr Justice Holland decided that the British court did not have jurisdiction under international law on state immunity.

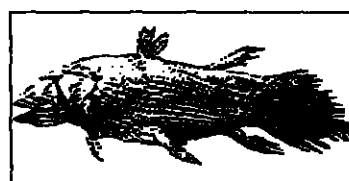
Miss Paprocki said that in 1944 the Nazis had plundered her family's bank accounts and had destroyed property including villas, shops and housing estates.

Fishermen endanger coelacanth

THE coelacanth, the sole survivor of a species of fish that goes back 400 million years, is once again in danger of extinction.

Professor Hans Ertel, a marine biologist from the Max Planck Institute in Germany, has been studying the only known home of the coelacanth, off the Comores in the Indian Ocean. In the past three years, he reports in *Nature*, the numbers observed from his mini-submarine have declined.

He blames the activities of local fishermen who catch the coelacanth accidentally with long lines when



The coelacanth: only 200 left

fishing for edible species. Since there are estimated to be only about 200 of the fish left, he gives warning that the survival of the species is "severely threatened". The fish, up to five feet long, were

known only from fossils when they were rediscovered in 1938. They live in caves up to 200 metres down, and cannot survive in aquaria. Between 1991 and last year Professor Ertel and colleagues found that the average number of coelacanths in the caves had fallen from 20.5 to 6.5.

In 1991, they observed 59 fish; last year only 40. The fall could be due to natural population fluctuation, they admit, or even to the stress of being observed by biologists in a mini-submarine, but the most likely explanation is a change in the pattern of fishing.

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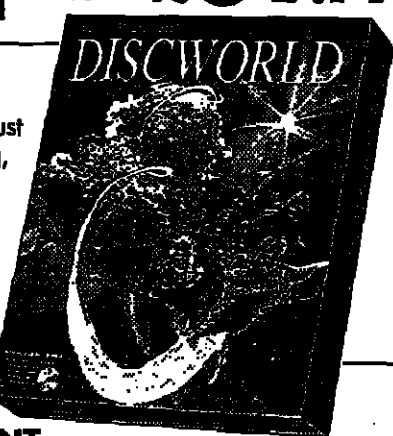


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Gummer tells Church to rescue souls lost in cities

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN GUMMER, the Environment Secretary, has criticised the Church of England for neglecting its spiritual mission to the inner cities and urged the Church to return to "saving souls".

Mr Gummer, who converted to Roman Catholicism after the Church voted for the ordination of women priests, says: "Government and private enterprise can do much to ensure the rehabilitation of our cities, but only the churches can give them back their soul."

Writing in tomorrow's edition of the weekly Church of England Newspaper, he says the Church must "reassert its primary purpose of saving souls as its unique contribution to the regeneration of our urban heartlands".

His article marks the tenth anniversary of Faith in the City, the church report in 1985 that was criticised by government ministers as left-wing and even Marxist.

Mr Gummer, a member of the General Synod until 1992, says: "Faith in the City concentrated rightly upon the Anglican role in helping the physical regeneration which is so necessary. It had, however, little to offer when preaching

salvation to those who live in our great urban centres. There was no new vision of the way to bring Jesus Christ through word and sacraments to the inner cities. No previous generation would have allowed the balance to become so skewed."

He adds that inner-city problems are not simply for the Government to tackle. "All those involved in our inner cities have recognised that they need to work together to overcome dereliction and disadvantage."

Faith in the City is regarded in the Church as one of the most important achievements of Lord Runcie, who as Archbishop of Canterbury set up the commission that produced the report.

It caused conflict between Church and State, but led to the creation of the Church Urban Fund in 1988, which has spent more than £19 million on 1,000-plus projects.

In the Church of England Newspaper, Lord Runcie defends the report as "an impressive database for social action to cope with the gap between comfortable and uncomfortable Britain". He says it "benefited from much of the shrill reaction of some politicians who tried to rubbish it".

Looking at Britain today, he says it is important "that none of the original momentum be lost, but rather greatly reinforced".

Mr Gummer lists government initiatives to help regeneration, including a new body, the Inner Cities Religious Council, chaired by the junior Environment Minister Sir Paul Beresford. The Church is involved in many of the 31 City Challenge groups, set up to encourage public and private-sector partnerships.

Mr Gummer says: "It is right that the Government should account for its stewardship in the cities. We need to galvanise people to become involved in transforming the places in which they live to have faith in the city."



Thatcher 'in good health'

BARONESS THATCHER is fit and healthy, her office said after reports that the former Prime Minister was looking unwell yesterday when she opened a housing development for Orthodox Jews in Hackney, north London, left.

"Her health is fine at the moment," a spokesman said. He added that Lady Thatcher, 69, had had dental treatment last week "and that's probably why she is looking a little drawn".

Tunnel method cleared of blame for Heathrow hole

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE use of a controversial tunnelling technique to excavate an Underground station at Heathrow was not directly to blame for the collapse of buildings near Terminal Three, a report by the Health and Safety Executive says. Approval is expected soon for using the same process to excavate a concourse beneath Terminal Four.

Inspectors from the executive are still working on their report into the incident in October when an office building suddenly slipped into a hole that appeared above the main station concourse being built for the £235 million Heathrow Express link. The inspectors have already concluded that there is nothing technically wrong with the technique known as the New Austrian Tunneling Method. The inquiry will now concern



The hole near Terminal 3

trate on the way in which the work was carried out and supervised.

Over the next few weeks the inspectors will interview dozens of employees, supervisors, managers and directors of Balfour Beatty, the main contractor, with engineers and senior executives from Heathrow Airport Ltd who placed the contract. It could be July before the report is completed. In the meantime, traditional boring methods are being

used on the two main rail tunnels around the airport. The crater at Terminal Three has been filled with 10,000 cubic metres of concrete to prevent any further slippage. Latest estimates suggest that the opening of the Heathrow Express, scheduled for December 1997, could be put back by six months.

The collapse is likely to cost about £50 million in insurance claims and originally led to a worldwide reappraisal of the tunnelling method. Work on the £1.9 billion Jubilee Line extension, using the same system, was immediately halted but permission was given in January to continue.

Work on two stations, below London Bridge and Waterloo, is at a standstill and, although the safety executive has not condemned the tunnelling method, it has been decided that it will be more economic to use it in combination with traditional methods.

£2bn boost for West Coast rail

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RAILTRACK announced a £2 billion overhaul yesterday of the London to Glasgow service that could save nearly an hour on journey times.

The eight-year modernisation of the 400-mile West Coast Main Line, to be funded mainly by the private sector, would allow foreign-built tilting trains to travel at 140mph between Euston station in London and Scotland, reducing journey time from 5 hours to 4 hours 16 minutes. Journey times to Birmingham would be reduced from 1 hour 37 minutes to 1 hour 18 minutes.

The core of the proposed scheme, costing about £1 billion, involves complete replacement of the track, a new overhead electric power supply and a computerised train control system. A further £1 billion could be spent if the first phase proved successful.

Tesco cashes in on French drink

By EDWARD GORMAN

AFTER losing millions to the cross-Channel drinks trade, the supermarket chain Tesco opened a massive alcohol superstore yesterday — in Calais.

Tesco Vins Plus, which is part of the new Cité Europe shopping complex next to the entrance to the Channel Tunnel, is the company's first venture on the Continent under its own name.

The multimillion-pound investment in France is a measure of Tesco's despair at continuing high rates of duty on wines and spirits in Britain, a point made by the company's chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin at the launch of the 25,000sq ft store.

"We talked in the Chancellor over many months about this and he's not prepared to move," he said. "In fact he put the duty up in the last minute. We are able to sell

beers, wines and spirits here very much cheaper." The cheapest wine available yesterday among more than 1,000 brands in Calais was Vin de Pays L'Hérault at 72p. Another bargain was Minervois, slightly better quality, at £1.03. In a store in England this would cost £2.99.

Other prices (French price in brackets) include: Black Tower Liebfraumilch, £3.69 (£2.02); Tesco claret, £3.19 (£1.94); Chateau Patache d'Aux 1991, £6.99 (£5.92); Chateau Cantemerle 1987, £9.99 (£6.09); Tesco Côtes du Rhône £2.69 (£1.55); Tesco Vintage Champagne, Premier Cru, 1982, £19.79 (£16.78).

David Sawday, Tesco corporate affairs manager, said the company estimated that it lost £50 million in the two weeks before last Christmas on wine alone to customers who chose to buy in France.



Lord Runcie defends report

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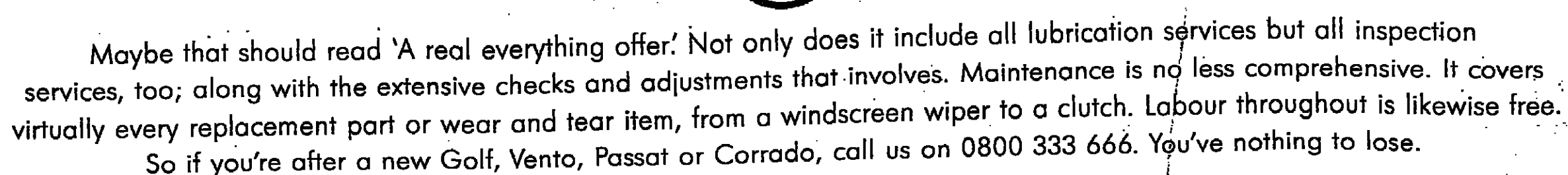
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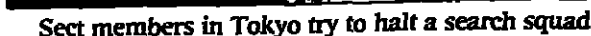
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From Gwen Robinson in tokyo

The simultaneous disclosure yesterday that police had requested gas masks and chemical-proof clothing from the army last Friday raised



The operation followed

Defence officials said yesterday that police had requested the Japanese army last Friday to provide gas masks and

"We are being severely and unjustly oppressed by the state authorities ... we have nothing at all to do with these incidents," he said. Mr. Ashihara cited a report speculating that the group was collecting sarin to commit mass suicide. "This evidently demonstrates (the state's) intention of killing us and making it appear to be a mass suicide ... If it is reported that our order committed suicide, we understand that we were killed by the Japanese state authorities," he said.



BY GWEN ROBINSON

Mr Asahara is known to his followers as "His Holiness, the Master." The sect promotes a version of

The sect's involvement with sarin gas, observers say, could be part of a long-term strategy to punish a society which has persecuted them and then to commit mass suicide. Mr Asahara,

achieved through an ascetic experience in the Himalayas. Members who have left the sect say they were asked to sign over all their assets. Some paid the equivalent of tens of thousands of pounds. Police seized what they presumed to be a fraction of Mr. Asahara's riches in yesterday's raids on Aum Shinrikyo facilities: 700 million yen (55 million) in cash and gold ingots. Followers who have paid

unimpressed. They have formed an anti-Aum Shinrikyo committee and have lodged complaints against the sect, ranging from the alleged manufacture of sarin gas to damaging crops with cars and disturbing the peace. Mr Asahara insists that the complaints, like the allegations of attempted mass murder, are part of a plot to hide the truth and obliterate "the one religion vital to Japan".

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Jerusalem: Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip yesterday arrested six activists of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in response to this week's foiled lorry bombing in southern Israel (Christopher Walker writes). The Israeli Government yesterday cancelled a proposed ministerial meeting in order to discuss the further release of Palestinian prisoners, which forms part of its delayed peace agreement with the PLO.



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
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Fear for civilians grows as Turks advance into Iraq

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MICHAEL EVANS

TURKISH air and ground forces pounded suspected separatist Kurdish guerrilla bases deep inside northern Iraq for a third day yesterday as international concern mounted that civilians may be bearing the brunt of the huge offensive.

Britain and Germany expressed concern and the incursion by such a large Turkish force has split Nato. Italy also said yesterday that human rights should be observed.

The United States has taken a cautious diplomatic line with Ankara. In a telephone call to Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, President Clinton did not condemn the incursion and received assurances that the military operation would safeguard civilians.

But Ms Ciller also said: "We are determined that, in this final operation, the job will definitely be done."

Military analysts, however, doubted that the heavy-handed Turkish operation would succeed against the lightly-

armed and highly mobile rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Many were thought to have slipped back into Turkey before the 35,000 Turkish troops poured over the mountainous border on Monday in pursuit of what it estimated were 2,500 rebels.

Witnesses said Turkish troops in Derkar, near the Iraqi border town of Zalkho, had detained villagers suspected of being PKK guerrillas. Their fate was unclear. An Iraqi Kurdish group said a nine-year-old girl and four other civilians were killed when American-built Turkish warplanes bombed the village of Pilangan near the Iranian border on Monday.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Amnesty International also expressed concern at reports that Turkish troops had arrested scores of Turkish Kurdish refugees and forcibly returned them to Turkey. Turkey insisted civilians were safe because "advance intelligence units" had pinpointed PKK

bases for targeting. In Baghdad, Viktor Wahloos, a UN spokesman, said the Turkish operation was hampering the delivery of relief supplies to Iraqi Kurds.

Details of the campaign were scanty as Turkey has only allowed its own journalists to cross the border.

After the statement on Tuesday from Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, acting on behalf of the European Union, in which he rebuked Ankara for violating Iraqi sovereignty, the Foreign Office in London said Ankara had been told of the Government's "concern" over Turkey's infringement of the basic principle of territorial integrity. Ankara has also been warned that Turkish troops must be "scrupulous" in ensuring the safety of non-combatants in northern Iraq.

The Foreign Office's concern will be underlined further when a troika of EU foreign ministers from France, Spain and Germany, visit Ankara today to discuss the



Troops of the 35,000-strong Turkish invasion force view suspected rebel Kurd positions in Iraq yesterday

offensive. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said in a statement issued in Bonn: "Turkey's actions in north Iraq give rise to the greatest concern. The Kurdish problem must be solved in the

first instance through political and legal means and not military ones." In Ankara, President Scalfaro of Italy said governments should safeguard human rights while fighting terrorism. President

Scalfaro is on a state visit to Turkey. The Foreign Office emphasised that there should be no interruption in the relief efforts for the Kurds in northern Iraq. They have been protected by daily Nato air

patrols since the end of the Gulf War following Iraqi offensives in the area. The patrols were suspended when Turkey announced the possibility of air strikes during its incursion into Iraq.

Torture of suspects in Algeria 'routine'

By MICHAEL DYNES

GOVERNMENT repression in Algeria is worse now than during the war of liberation against the French, a human rights campaigner claimed yesterday.

Arbitrary arrest and summary execution is commonplace, and torture has become "routine", Ali Yahia Abdennour, president of the Algerian League for Human Rights, told the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. The cancellation of Algeria's first post-independence elections in January 1992 unleashed "a sinister and bloody wave of violence and counter-violence" which has so far cost an estimated 30,000 lives, Mr Abdennour said.

The elections were cancelled by the army after it became clear that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was poised for victory.

Twenty-nine journalists have been assassinated, accused of "collaborating" with the army-backed regime, and 700 schools have been torched or ransacked by extremists who oppose education, particularly for women, Mr Abdennour added.

Arabs in disarray on anniversary

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE 22-member Arab League marked the 50th anniversary of its founding in Cairo yesterday with its house in a shambles and many goals, such as Arab solidarity or the liberation of Palestine, little more than dreams. The right security highlighted the new threat to the body from Islamic extremism.

Despite an elaborate \$250,000 (£158,200) programme to mark the occasion, including an opera titled *The House of the Arabs*, little could disguise the fundamental split in the Arab world caused by the 1990 Gulf War.

If anything has changed since the founding states — Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria — signed the original charter on March 22, 1945, calling for greater policy co-operation and co-ordination, it is that for many Arabs the enemy is no longer Israel but their own Arab neighbours.

For millions in the Middle East the dream of a unified Arab world, a hope that the league nurtured, has proved

hollow. The organisation has failed to stop at least half a dozen conflicts among member states, and a long-awaited court of justice, to prevent and settle intra-Arab conflicts, has failed to become a reality.

Many Arab diplomats see Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 as the final breakdown in the league's authority; at a summit then in Cairo — the organisation's last — rival delegations hurled cutlery as well as insults at each other.

Kuwait and its oil-rich neighbours turned to the United States-led coalition to help free the emirate. That split has continued to widen: last week Saudi Arabia and Kuwait blocked a proposal by Sudan to discuss ending sanctions against Iraq.

"After 50 years, we should take a break to see if we can make it better," Walid Keziza, a lecturer at Cairo's American University, said. But the league is struggling to find an identity that will make it relevant again.

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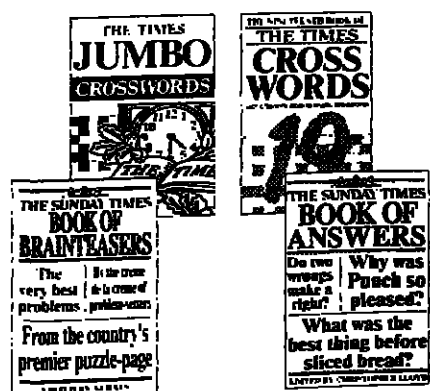
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Appeals for money follow Queen to blighted township

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PORT ELIZABETH

THE QUEEN yesterday visited the Eastern Cape, South Africa's second poorest province, to be greeted by bare-breasted dancers, a crowd approaching 100,000, and appeals for British money to improve black living conditions.

What appeared to be almost the entire population of New Brighton, a large black township near Port Elizabeth, took to the streets to greet the Queen as she arrived to watch a cultural display in a sports hall. The township is the oldest in the area, founded to supply labour to General Motors and other post-war foreign investors in the Cape, but now suffering unemployment, poverty and poor housing.

There was little doubt what the exuberant crowd wanted from the Queen: British money. "The big message is

that we want better housing; we need to work together with Britain to make more money for this country to build us some decent houses," Gordon Ndlebe, who is unemployed, said. "Ever since Britain left this country, our money has got less and less. We have such inflation: you can earn 200 rands (about £40) a week if you're lucky, but when you have to pay 150 to the grocer, what's left?"

The appeal for aid was repeated by Raymond Mhlaba, premier of the Eastern Cape, in a speech at a lunch given for the Queen at Vista University, a campus built five years ago for black students, but now admitting all races.

"Our province desperately needs capital injection for economic growth. This is the second poorest province in South Africa; we need external

assistance," he said. In reply, the Queen recalled happy memories of her visit in 1947, but added that they were tinged with sadness at the events of the apartheid era, a subject she has rarely mentioned in public.

"But in 1995 we meet in a new South Africa which has rejoined the Commonwealth and is working hard to overcome the legacy of the years of apartheid and prejudice," she said. She then proposed a toast to the Government and people of the Eastern Cape. But the 450 guests had to raise empty glasses because the wine had been poured only on the top table.

The Queen, accompanied by Nceba Faku, Mayor of Port Elizabeth and an ANC stalwart who shared detention on Robben Island with President Mandela, sat in New Brighton's Centenary Hall to listen to a Xhosa choir, followed by the New Generation Production, a mixed dance troupe who performed in loincloths. The Queen looked stern at



The Queen and Nceba Faku, Mayor of Port Elizabeth, enjoy traditional dances by a mixed troupe in New Brighton yesterday

first, but eventually smiled. "I am amazed at their energy," she told Mr Faku. Palace officials pointed out that the Queen had probably seen a greater variety of tribal per-

forming arts, much of it half-clad, than any other person alive. Later, the Queen visited two Port Elizabeth community projects being supported by British money. But in New

Brighton, the Azanian People's Organisation has its own ideas on how Britain could help their country. They want the Queen to give back the Star of Africa, the South

African diamond in the sceptre of the Crown Jewels. They say it stolen from the people by the Transvaal Government in 1907, and given to King Edward VII.

Duke visits village raised from ruins

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN MAGOPA, NEAR VENTERSDORP AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN KIMBERLEY

AS THE dust-covered convoy carrying the Duke of Edinburgh crawled into view, people lining the dirt road cheered and waved.

"I don't know who he is or where he is from, but I know this is an important visit," said unemployed Jacob More. 28. "Just by coming here people will see that we are suffering and it may help to improve our lives."

Mr More was one of several hundred to give the Duke a warm welcome to Magopa. The village, lying on lush veld 15 miles north of Ventersdorp, the Western Transvaal home of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, is one of nine pilot projects where land redistribution is under way. It was launched by the Government last month at a cost of £57 million.

It was here that the Bakwena tribe ran a prosperous farming business before the Government in 1984 forcibly removed 5,000 inhabitants at gunpoint and resettled them on unproductive land. Their homes, school and churches were bulldozed. But last year, the people

were the first to be successfully restored to their land after a protracted legal battle. The Duke was shown pictures of the removal and return of the community.

Derek Hanekom, the Land Affairs Minister who accompanied the Duke, recalled how the Queen contributed to changing the former apartheid Government's policy. He said a letter from a threatened village to the Queen in the mid-1980s resulted in her raising the matter with Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister. The village had been granted the land by King Edward VII, and the Queen's action led Mrs Thatcher to raise the issue with former President Botha. Pretoria was embarrassed into changing its policy. The Duke, clearly touched, congratulated the residents on returning to their land.

Earlier, in Kimberley, the Duke saw some of the finest diamonds in the world, and was given one as a souvenir. "I hope diamonds will not only be a girl's best friend, but South Africa's best friend too," he said.

Mandela warrant ruled invalid

BY INIGO GILMORE AND RAY KENNEDY

POLICE are expected to apply for a fresh warrant to search the home and offices of Winnie Mandela following a judge's ruling in Johannesburg yesterday that the warrant issued three weeks ago was invalid and that seized documents be returned to her immediately.

A spokesman for George Fivaz, the police commissioner, said a meeting of senior officers would probably be held today at which a decision would be made on whether to apply for a new warrant. "Inquiries are continuing. The court ruling does not detract from the seriousness of the criminal investigations concerning Mrs Mandela," the spokesman added.

Police have accused the estranged wife of President Mandela of taking 75,000 rands (£13,000) in bribes to obtain contracts for a builder. They have said their inquiries involved "millions of rands".

The ruling by Mr Justice Streicher was welcomed with whoops of delight outside the Rand Supreme Court by Mrs Mandela's supporters. Both the Government and the police have been embarrassed, although Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Safety and Security, insisted that police had done nothing wrong in carrying out the search.

However, the African National Congress welcomed the ruling. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's Secretary-General, who is considered to be one of Mrs Mandela's most bitter foes within the party, said the police raids had been "heavy-handed, melodramatic and reminiscent of the past".

Mrs Mandela was in West Africa when police raided her luxury Soweto home on March 1. She claims she has been betrayed by people within the ANC and that she is being victimised.

Setback for Britain over Unicef

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN'S hopes of capturing the top post at the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) are fading fast as the UN Secretary-General searches for a woman to fill the job.

Britain still officially backs Dr Richard Jolly, the British development economist, and long-time Unicef official who took over as acting executive director of the agency on the death of its American head in January.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN chief, has made it clear that he intends to appoint a woman to help to boost female representation at the highest levels of the UN in the run-up to the UN women's conference in Beijing in September. At last weekend's ministerial meeting in Caracassonne, France, the EU rallied behind the candidacy of Elisabeth Rehn, a former Finnish Defence Minister.

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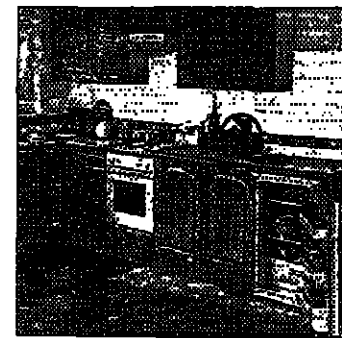
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Dudayev

Chechens battle to save last bastion

FROM AN

CHECHEN warlords are defending the last bastion of their independence in the mountainous region of Chechnya. The Russian army is pushing them back, but the Chechens are fighting back. They are determined to save their last bastion, the town of Grozny. The Russian army is pushing them back, but the Chechens are fighting back. They are determined to save their last bastion, the town of Grozny.

Long Island

THE convicted Long Island railway killer, John G. ... was sentenced to life in prison. The judge said the evidence was overwhelming. The jury took only 15 minutes to reach a verdict. The man was 40 years old at the time of the crime.

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Belgian Foreign Minister resigns in bribe scandal

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BELGIUM'S Foreign Minister, Frank Vandebroucke, resigned last night after making a series of fresh and tantalising disclosures in a bribery scandal that threatens the careers of several other leading Belgian politicians.

Mr Vandebroucke, 38, admitted that in 1991, when he was president of the Flemish Socialist party, he ordered the party's treasurer to burn money held in a safe deposit box to comply with laws on financing political parties. Etienne Mange, the treasurer, who appears to have disobeyed the instruction, has told magistrates that the Italian helicopter firm Agusta paid £1 million to the party to help to obtain a contract to sell helicopters to Belgium. Mr Vandebroucke said that he had no idea how much money was in the box nor where it had come from.

Earlier, Mr Vandebroucke had said that he would not resign unless he was charged in the investigation. "All this is not very pretty," he said of his revelations at a press conference yesterday. "But it makes sense."

Mr Vandebroucke's disclosure raises at least as many questions as it answers. Some will be directed at Willy Claes, who was closely involved in



Vandebroucke told treasurer to burn cash

the helicopter purchase in 1988, and who is now the Secretary-General of Nato. Mr Vandebroucke succeeded Mr Claes as Foreign Minister last year.

Sir Michael Alexander, a former British Ambassador to Nato, told the BBC this week that the position of Mr Claes would become untenable if uncertainty over the scandal went on much longer.

The scandal has decimated the French-speaking Socialist party, which saw three of its ministers resign last year; two are due to stand trial later this year. More recently, the inquiry has centred on the smaller Flemish Socialist party: five

people, including Mr Mange, are in custody while they are questioned by magistrates in connection with charges of pocketing kickbacks from French and Italian firms which won contracts for Belgium's armed forces in the late 1980s. France's Dassault aviation company has also been named.

Belgian television last night reported that police were searching the Flemish Socialist party headquarters. The party's leaders in 1988, including Mr Vandebroucke and Mr Claes, have admitted that they heard about the offer of an Italian bribe but said that they did nothing about it.

A statement from the Royal Palace said that King Albert had accepted the resignation of Mr Vandebroucke, who was also Deputy Prime Minister. It said he would be succeeded as Foreign Minister by Eric Derycke, the Secretary of State for Development Co-operation. Johan Vande Lanotte, the Interior Minister, will also become a Deputy Prime Minister.

A Nato spokesman said that he had no comment. Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, said in a statement that he regretted seeing Mr Vandebroucke leave the Government.



Russian sets new space record

Back on Earth yesterday after a record-breaking 438 days in space aboard the orbiting Mir space station, Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov, 52, celebrates with a cup of tea. Minutes earlier, looking pale and unsteady but otherwise healthy, he emerged from a space module after landing on the steppes of Kazakhstan (Richard Beeston writes). "I feel all

right," Dr Polyakov said as he was subjected to a series of medical tests. He had volunteered for the mission to test the effects on the human body of long periods of weightlessness, a vital exercise for such future international projects as the Alpha space station

and the proposed manned mission to Mars. To compensate for weightlessness, Dr Polyakov performed intensive exercises on Mir's cycling machine and was also on a course of specially designed drugs to compensate for the calcium deficiency which

prolonged space flight engenders. Norman Thagard, who became the first American astronaut to join the Mir space station last week, and returned to Earth with Dr Polyakov and another Russian, said Dr Polyakov had come through his endurance record in good shape. "He is big and strong and looks like he could wrestle a bear," he said.



Dudayev: main base is almost surrounded

Chechens battle to save last bastion

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN separatist forces were last night fighting to defend their last stronghold in the face of a new Russian offensive apparently aimed at finally crushing them and ending the war. As evening fell the town of Shali, the Chechen headquarters, was reported to be surrounded on three sides and under heavy bombardment.

The latest Russian assault comes 103 days after the start of the huge Russian military intervention in Chechnya. Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, had previously rashly predicted the invasion could be completed by one parachute regiment in two hours.

The latest Russian ground offensive comes after an intensive three-day bombardment of the towns of Shali, Argun and Gudermes, the main centres still under the control of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader. It marks a break with the Russian strategy of recent weeks, which has been to try to isolate the Dudayev forces without launching direct assaults on Chechen population centres.

Yeltsin warned that Caucasus conflict may harm G7 ties

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the American Secretary of State, gave a warning yesterday that Russia's military campaign in Chechnya could halt Moscow's evolving links with the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

Speaking in Geneva before he began talks with Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, he said the escalation of the conflict was a "serious error".

President Yeltsin has been pressing the West for Russia's full inclusion in the economic as well as political talks at the Halifax summit this summer.

Mr Christopher, however, strongly defended America's continued ties with and aid for Russia, despite strong differences over Chechnya and Russian nuclear reactor sales to Iran. His talks last night were an attempt to narrow their differences over Bosnia and the expansion of Nato and also to plan arrangements for President Clinton's visit to Moscow.

Their meeting came as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sought assurances from Moscow that Second World War veterans will

not wave Nazi flags in his face if he attends Russia's VE-Day ceremonies in May. He has already discussed his invitation to Moscow with President Clinton, who has been told by President Yeltsin that this year's parade in Red Square would be devoid of military machinery and pomp.

Mr Christopher is hoping to soothe Russian anxieties over proposals allowing East European former members of the Warsaw Pact to join Nato. He does not want a public confrontation between Mr Clinton and Mr Yeltsin over the issue during the Moscow ceremonies.

Mr Kozyrev is expected to reiterate demands that Moscow be offered a special treaty relationship with Nato, be consulted on all important security issues and that it should not be left out of European defence arrangements. European Union foreign ministers appeared at their informal meeting last weekend to concede the need to give Russia a privileged relationship. The American Congress is expected to take a harder line.

President Clinton has come under strong pressure to abandon his trip to Moscow because of the Russian attack on Chechnya. But Mr Kozyrev was likely to reinforce Moscow's view that any last-minute cancellation would cause enormous offence, severely straining East-West relations.

Several German commentators have expressed astonishment at Mr Clinton's decision to go to Moscow — at the expense of both London and Paris — for VE-Day celebrations and said that White House excuse that Mr Clinton cannot please all the Allies was totally unacceptable.



Kozyrev seeks special relationship with Nato

Nuclear sub to be entombed on sea bed

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Russians are planning to build a concrete tomb around a sunken nuclear submarine to prevent radiation leaks.

The submarine, *Komsomolsk*, sank off the north Norwegian coast in 1989 with the loss of 42 lives. It is now embedded in mud in international waters more than 5,500ft below the surface.

Carrying 20 conventional and two nuclear-tipped torpedoes, *Komsomolsk* is estimated to contain 22 to 26lb of plutonium.

Russian and Norwegian experts have expressed fears that radioactive materials leaking from the submarine could pollute the seabed. Plans to raise the submarine were scrapped because the operation was too risky.

Russian authorities tried last year to seal off the torpedo hatches and plug holes in the submarine, but now a longer term solution has been agreed. Mikhail Tolokonnikov, who is the head of the underwater works department of Russia's ministry for emergencies, said in an interview with the *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* newspaper: "We have to build a sarcophagus using special substances capable of absorbing plutonium."

Mr Tolokonnikov said it would take a month for underwater robots to build a tomb around the submarine.

"The reactor is intact. There is no radiation," he said. "The reactor will be safe until it dies out naturally after a hundred years."

The tomb for the submarine will be similar, though on a smaller scale, to the plan for building a concrete wall around the reactor at the crippled Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

American TV shows face Euro curbs

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

PANDERING to French anxieties about its crumbling film industry, the European Commission yesterday tightened European broadcasting legislation to force television channels to curb American television imports.

If the rules are approved by EU culture ministers, European broadcasters — including privately-owned satellite channels — will have to ensure that at least 51 per cent of their programmes are produced in the Union. The rules are designed to protect the European film and television industries, but will apply for

only ten years. After that, they are expected to be able to withstand the full force of international competition.

The new rules are a classic EU compromise, in that they give ground to liberals and protectionists. The French Government, which has turned audiovisual policy into one of the priorities of its EU presidency, had asked for even stricter measures. In France, for example, state-owned television cannot show feature films on Friday nights — a measure intended to lure the public to cinemas. Britain and Germany, however, have pre-

viously in their desire not to see restrictions imposed on the new multi-media services, such as pay-as-you-view, or home-shopping networks.

In drafting the broadcasting rules, the Commission eliminated a clause in a 1989 directive, under which broadcasters were held to observe local content rules "wherever practical". With the removal of this contentious loophole, broadcasters will no longer be able to argue that it is impractical for them to comply with the directive. The Commission agreed to grant an exemption for thematic broadcasting

channels, such as TNT, a cartoon network owned by Ted Turner, the founder and owner of CNN. Thematic channels, however, will be required to invest at least 25 per cent of their programming budget in EU-made features.

The decision to leave multi-media services unaffected by EU regulations amounts to a victory for Commission liberalisers led by Martin Bangemann, the German Industry Commissioner, and Jacques Santer, the Commission's President. Both had argued against "roadblocks on the superhighway".

Long Island train killer gets 200 years

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE convicted Long Island railway killer, Colin Ferguson, sat expressionless in a New York courtroom as he was berated by survivors and relatives of his victims. Yesterday he was sentenced to 200 years.

Ferguson was convicted last month of killing six people

and wounding 19 others when he opened fire with an automatic pistol on a crowded commuter train on December 7, 1993. The gunman, 37, refused to plead insanity, despite a history of extreme paranoia, and mounted his own wildly eccentric defence, in which he claimed to have

been victimised. Prosecutors had asked Judge Donald Belli to impose the maximum sentence of 200 years in prison on Ferguson, the product of a wealthy Jamaican family. A dozen survivors and relatives of those killed in the massacre took the witness stand on Tuesday, as permitted under New York law, to describe the horror of their ordeal, leaving most of those present in tears.

Carolyn McCarthy, whose husband was killed and whose son was left partially paralysed in the attack, said that due to Ferguson's actions she had been "sentenced to a life of pain and suffering".

"I don't believe you are crazy, Colin Ferguson. I believe you knew exactly what you were doing... We will learn to laugh again, we will learn to love again and we will all survive. But you will not."

Another witness, Robert Giugliano, who was shot several times, lunged towards Ferguson after describing how he had watched another of the victims, Maria Magotto, die. "This man is an animal. Just give me five minutes alone with him and I'll show him what pain is," Mr Giugliano shouted.

Dennis Lemke, Ferguson's court-appointed lawyer, began to weep. "I see you crying," Ferguson snapped. Mr Lemke assured him: "It has nothing to do with your guilt or innocence. These people have suffered."

A veteran prosecutor, George Peck, said the case was the most horrific he had encountered. "This is a man born in privilege and raised in privilege. However, somewhere in his upbringing, he started to hate people."

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The Rev Christopher Wardale (right) with Malcolm Macourt: "We were accepted as a couple. And we were — respectable. We don't go roaring around in women's clothes"

Thank heaven for tolerance

In Middle England the parish faithful want to keep a good vicar and don't care a hoot about his love life, says Libby Purves

They joked for the photographer. "You want us to interact? Would that be the five-minute row, or the full divorce? What exactly is for supper. Malcolm?" In a suburban garden in Darlington, Co Durham, the vicar and the academic stood side by side, their cat weaving restlessly around their feet, and looked at the camera without flinching.

That they did it is part of the story. For this spring, with the Bishop of London talking of "stability and holiness of life" among gay clergy, and Dr Carey affirming such partnerships as capable of "genuine Christian character", there is a growing impulse to stand up and be counted: seen as a parish priest whose "wife" is another man, yet whose life is Christian and decorous. "We were outed once, in *The Sun*," remarks the Rev Christopher Wardale. "Only we were so boring we only made page 11." "Middle-aged," agrees his partner, Malcolm Macourt of Northumbria University. "Middle-class, unspeakably dull."

The only visibly eccentric aspect of Mr Wardale's ministry is the fact that his cat, Toxic, writes a column in the parish magazine. Mr Macourt, a university lecturer, pads around juggling teacups and visitors, while Mr Wardale talks about his life. Until he was 30, he was a restorer of medieval stained glass. "I still see a church sometimes and remember I did those angels!" For years he worked on the windows of York Minster. He was always a practising Christian, his inner religious life rooted in his region. "The Celtic Christianity of the

North East moves me: Aidan and Cuthbert, that sense of adventurous pilgrimage, of travelling life together, with a purpose. Maybe I was a brittle Anglo-Catholic for a while, but not now: I answer to anything, from Father to 'hey you'." He took orders late: "I kept putting God off."

Not because of his homosexuality, though. That, he insists, was never a problem. "Nobody ever asked. It didn't seem to be an issue, and I never had any guilt." He served as curate in Darlington, then had his first parish, Hedworth. "A pit village. I used to talk to men in the pub about the Bishop of Durham and the virgin birth, and they'd all watch him in the pub, on *Everman*. He was ours, you see." In 1984, he met Mr Macourt.

And what is their relationship? Is it tied up with "stability and holiness", as irrevocable as a Christian marriage? He thinks, quietly. "Yes. There was a point when we, as it were, pledged our truth. Rather a shock, to know you are stuck with someone for life. We live in love; but also, we are the old jacket, the pair of slippers, familiar. There is this obsession with sex, isn't there? Once, single men set up house together and nobody thought twice. People think too much about the sex, not the relationship."

In the pit village, they were an accepted fixture. "When we left, we both got presents, and so did our respective parents. We were accepted as a couple. Small communities do

take on people's individuality, you know. And we were — respectable. We don't go roaring around in women's clothes." Parishioners, it seems, are tolerant of gayness unless it deliberately frightens them off with leather and chains and way-out politics and promiscuity. "Well," says Mr Macourt, "that would frighten

'We were outed once, in *The Sun*, only we were so boring we only made page 11'

me off. I don't even get asked to University Gaysoc meetings any more. Dull, you see." "Not camp," explains Mr Wardale bluffly. "Rather embarrassing, all that stuff."

Coming to Darlington, however, brought difficulties. In a staid, middle-class, suburban parish they might have found it politic to pretend to be mere friends — Mr Macourt, after all, keeps his own flat in Newcastle. "But there is such a thing as integrity," says Mr Wardale quietly. "We don't pretend."

At this point, both men left me to

talk alone to a group of parishioners, who had turned up very much wanting their views on the record. There was a row when the vicar was appointed, and a score of parishioners left. Vincent Clarke was churchwarden then, and remembers it with anger. "The word homosexual was used in a certain mischievous letter. Without that word there would have been no trouble." He seems to dislike the word a lot more than the reality. "I don't understand that word gay. Or *homosexual*. If it means — he shudders — "effeminate, well, he isn't. He's just a blunt Yorkshireman. He makes you think."

Cecil Robinson, of the PCC, says: "He is the most considerate vicar I have ever known. The other thing — well, he doesn't cause scandal. I've spent my life in unions, working for equal opportunities. You can't just pay lip-service, can you?" The whole group, well over 50, devotedly churchy and as middle-England as they come, can hardly find enough words to assure me that they love their vicar and are happy for him to be an intimate of their lives, christen their grandchildren, marry their daughters and bury their dead.

Only Margaret Fowler, shy, elderly and outwardly conventional, tries to express the processes by which she came to this total acceptance. "There is ignorance and bigotry. When he came, it made me think hard and long. It brought me greater under-

standing. Why should people be denied their vocation, and normal life with someone, because they're not what we consider 'normal'? He is a wonderful vicar. You can bring him any personal problem." Bill Simpson, next to Vincent, shyly lets me further into the rather wonderful, very Anglican joke of their staid suburb's sudden entry into the 1990s. "Our curate's a woman, you know. They throw everything at us!"

Malcolm sees them out. Himself an archdeacon's son, his current professional research is into the sociology of religious organisations. He puts his finger on why it has worked here. "There is a strong sense of good order and decency. People agree to accept homosexuality because actually, they never had any strong sense of the thing itself being wrong in the first place. And they have learnt what the Gay Christian Movement keeps on trying to persuade people that accepting it doesn't mean accepting that anything goes. There are still strong moral laws about relationships."

So there you are. The Rev Christopher Wardale, vicar of Holy Trinity, is backed by bishop and parish, welcome at the primary school and chaplain not only to the sixth-form college but — by personal invitation — to the local Royal British Legion. And he lives with a man. He is happy.

"You see, I love being a clergyman. I like church, taking services, preaching, baptism, marriages, funerals, festivals. I love it. I love people. I feel I can make a difference."

Complaining makes you feel much better

We need to learn that kicking up a fuss is always worthwhile

I WISH I could congratulate Mrs Bottomley on making it easier for patients to complain. I'd like to, I really would. A more cynical politician would have barricaded herself behind the official complaints statistics, insisting that 99 per cent of patients are entirely satisfied with the way the NHS treats them, because only one in a hundred complains. The truth, as Mrs B acknowledges, is that it's quicker and simpler to build a mountain with marbles than to get a complaint through the system.

So she has made complaining easier for patients. (Well, at any rate she says she has. We'll have to wait and see: it is impossible to tell from the Department of Health's fussy little diagram littered with boxes labelled Stage One, Panel Convened, Health Service Commissioner and arrows of accountability leading to Patient Satisfaction.) What she has not done, though, is to make apologising easier for doctors.

Doing one without the other is simply bad medicine. If a doctor cannot admit a mistake and apologise for it because he or she might get sued, the whole purpose of making a complaint in the first place is frustrated.

At yesterday's press conference to launch the new procedures, the NHS chief executive admitted that they would do nothing to improve this awkward legal situation. Hospital managers will still have to decide whether to seek legal advice on how to handle individual complaints, and we all know the lawyers will tell them not to apologise, but to fudge.

Making a successful complaint, whether in a hospital or a restaurant or a supermarket queue, is a process of catharsis. It is a nice, symmetrical ritual: somebody does you wrong, you protest, he admits he made a mistake, says he's sorry and it won't happen again, and — so long as you think there's a fair chance that it won't happen again — off you go feeling much better.

I had one of the nicest meals ever in a restaurant the other evening, after finding the courage for the first time ever to send back a bottle of wine. It was only a house wine, nothing like the £55 number sent back the other day by an MP on a select committee junket to Brussels, but it was filthy. The wine waiter solemnly tasted it, considered the matter with furrowed brow, agreed and brought a better

bottle. Thereafter the staff treated us with special courtesy, and actually seemed pleased to do so. Far from souring the evening, as the wine would have done, my complaint sweetened it.

I can see that to someone who has had the wrong leg amputated this must look like a pretty frivolous analogy, but that sort of medical disaster is extremely rare. Most of what goes wrong in medicine is either to do with fine judgment made under pressure, or with people failing to do something they should have done because the lines of communication got screwed up.

Twenty-four hours in a hospital is enough to convince any patient that medicine is a complex and inexact science, that an awful lot of people — nurses, doctors, administrators, even porters — can have an impact on his recovery, and that all of them are in a caring rush. When something goes wrong he or his relations just want to stop one of these hurtling expert bodies in its tracks, challenge the relevant person with the alleged sin of omission or commission, and go through the ritual of explanation, admission, apology and promise of improvement.

If the business of medicine is really about making people feel better, then this ritual is an important part of the job. In some cases it may be too late to make the patient feel better, but by blocking, complaining, or fudging, or missing out the apology, the medical authorities can sure as hell play havoc with the blood pressure of his relations.

They know this, of course, and the human beings among them would rather apologise and have done with it. What they also know is that if they don't deal with the blood pressure problem the sufferer may look to a lawyer for relief. We already hear much about doctors practising defensive medicine, but we hear little about the ways in which trainee nurses are also advised to practise defensively for fear of legal action.

THE LORD Chancellor will shortly allow lawyers to take cases not just from the rich and very poor as at present, but from the middle-earning middle-classes on a contingency-fee basis. Before those litigation floodgates are opened, we badly need a mechanism whereby our medicals can safely say sorry.



MARGOT NORMAN

Launched a year ago, Prince Charles's architectural magazine nearly went off the tracks. Now, says Joanna Pitman, it's back on course

Opening the monthly magazine *Perspectives on Architecture* today, and tasting its sharp tang, is like the first sip of a chilled gin and tonic in a world that has known only warm, indifferent beer. The anniversary issue, which goes on sale today, is virtually unrecognisable as the magazine that was published in association with the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, and launched a year ago with a fanfare of expectant eulogies and a blizzard of publicity... and which promptly fell flat on its face.

It got off to an inauspicious start with the ill-advised choice of a photograph of the Prince of Wales for the cover of its inaugural issue, a decision calculated, it would appear, to alarm professionals not wishing to be associated with the classical pastiche school of architecture, and to arouse suspicions among the public that the magazine was to be a vehicle for periodic fits of philistinism from the Prince.

"Unfocused" was the verdict of the charitable, "unspeakable" said the rest. And most stopped reading it. Six months ago all that changed.

Giles Worsley, the architectural historian, was appointed the new editor, bringing a much-needed tonic and a clear direction to the embattled shoestring team in Hinde Street. Performing a skilful editorial turnaround, Worsley has reinvented the magazine by shrewdly asserting a bold independence from the Prince's personal philosophies and bringing the magazine's editorial ambitions into focus in a difficult market.

"We are aiming to open people's eyes to architecture," says Worsley. "The basic purpose is educational, from the point of view that architecture is all around us, yet most people are blind to it or avoid it because it's perceived to be difficult and something best left to the professionals. This gap between the professionals and the ordinary public has led to a lot of bad

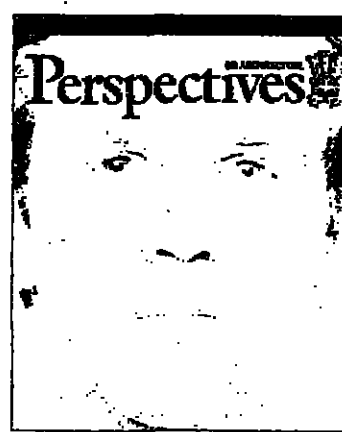
The magazine that Giles Worsley built

architecture over the past 40 years. If we can help to breach that gap by educating ordinary people and giving them the confidence to understand and talk about architecture, then we will get some proper architectural debate which should lead to better architecture."

Like a good design for a building, *Perspectives* is being put together with clarity, integrity of style and sound proportions. Subscription levels are climbing and, judging by

the correspondence pages, it is beginning to thrum with energy. But this is an extremely demanding project. In its breadth of ambition there has never been anything like *Perspectives*. And, as any publisher will know, magazine markets are particularly difficult to secure when editorial is operating simultaneously on two levels: aiming to be both accessible to the lay reader and sufficiently informed to attract the professional.

Richard McCormac, a past president of RIBA, believes that *Perspectives* aims are ambitious but undoubtedly good. "It is difficult to tell whether it can really take off, but it's already furthering debate and awareness of the shift away from the assumption that old buildings are good and that new design is malign and ugly. New buildings are being more interest-



Worsley: "educational purpose"

Perspectives has found a formula that mixes polemics and politics on the specific critical architectural and conservationist issues of the day with more generalist reviews, profiles and practical information for the domestic-interest reader.

Although a year old, the magazine is still in its infancy in its reincarnated state, making its long-term prospects difficult to judge.

But it is a telling testimonial that architects of all persuasions are reading it. Rick Mather, who built the award-winning glass house in Hampstead and considered to be at the cutting edge of modernist styles, is a supporter. "It is still finding its feet," he says, "but it certainly carries a feisty tone and manages to illustrate a surprisingly wide range of styles. Its ambition to span the architectural and lay communities is good and absolutely necessary."

Richard McCormac, a past president of RIBA, believes that *Perspectives* aims are ambitious but undoubtedly good. "It is difficult to tell whether it can really take off, but it's already furthering debate and awareness of the shift away from the assumption that old buildings are good and that new design is malign and ugly. New buildings are being more interest-

ingly and competently reviewed." When the Prince of Wales made his notorious "carbuncle" speech in 1987, he became instrumental in bringing the architectural debate to a far wider public than ever before.

Now, with the publication of *Perspectives*, he is taking that debate on to another level, offering the public access to a catholic mix of architectural styles and scales, demonstrating their relevance to our lives, and giving us the skills to view and to judge appropriately.

But just what is it about modern buildings and the British? We seem perfectly competent at delivering sensible opinions on modern literature, art and music, but when it comes to modern buildings we still come over all vague and incapable, our critical faculties blunted perhaps by too much time spent on the heritage trail, too many lazy retreats back into our voracious appetite for the ancient. *Perspectives* has a formidable educational task ahead.



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Difficulties in the early diagnosis of a common cancer □ Avoiding damage in the womb □ When a child's appetite is ruined by sweet drinks

E REGULAR readers of *Medical Briefing* will know that daily aspirin not only protects some patients against coronary thrombosis but that it also lessens the chance of developing a cancer in the rectum and large bowel. A report delivered to the American Association of Cancer Research this week shows that half an aspirin a day is all that is needed to achieve this benefit.

There are 24,000 new cases of cancer of the colon and rectum in Britain every year, and 18,000 deaths. For non-smoking men it is the most common form of cancer: in women it ranks after cancer of the breast. Early detection, so that treatment can be started at a time when there is a good chance of complete recovery, is not easy.

Breasts can be investigated with mammography and ultrasound, lungs by X-rays and scans, prostate by digital examination, blood tests and ultrasound, cervixes with smears and ovaries with ultrasound — but the colon remains inaccessible. Many feet of large

The trail of a silent killer



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

gut remain hidden away beyond the reach of the doctor's finger, proctoscope (short examination tube) or even the flexible sigmoidoscope — the standard instrument which specialists use to examine the colon.

Too often the tumour grows silently without causing bleeding, pain, or a change in bowel habit — the classic warnings of trouble — until it has already penetrated the wall of the colon, or even spread beyond it. *Monitor*, a weekly magazine for GPs, has reviewed the present situation in relation to the early diagnosis of

colo-rectal cancer.

The magazine bases its findings on research originally published in *Gut*, by doctors from St Mark's Hospital, London, supported by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

The St Mark's research shows that people with a family history of colo-rectal cancer, particularly if it has struck in more than one generation, have an increased chance of developing a tumour themselves and further investigations by a specialist are warranted. This is true even if they are symptom-free, and even if they do not have familial adenomatous

polyp (multiple tumours). The research also shows that colonoscopy, the examination of the colon by means of a small telescope and camera, is preferable to sigmoidoscopy.

In the St Mark's study, six of the seven cases of cancer, and 46 out of 144 patients with adenomas (pre-malignant polyps), had their growths in the first part of the colon, beyond the reach of the sigmoidoscope. This is in accord with the usually quoted statistics, which suggest that 65 per cent of the tumours can be reached with a flexible sigmoidoscope.

There are many aspects of cancer of the colon and rectum which are not understood but three risk factors for developing the disease have been made obvious by this research. In many cases there is an obvious family history, which becomes particularly relevant if it has affected more than one generation of the same family.

It is twice as common in men as in women and it becomes more frequent with age, although in this respect it was interesting that the average age of patients with cancers was only 49.

Testing time

GOOD news for Cathy Perks, of *The Archers*. She may be an older mother — indeed, an elderly primip to her doctors — but her baby has been shown by amniocentesis to be healthy, despite the alarm caused by an equivocal blood test.

As genetic medicine improves, more pregnancies will be subject to tests to reveal the child's genetic makeup as early as possible. Cathy is not the only pregnant woman to have been made anxious recently. Other mothers have been alarmed by reports of limb-damaged babies being born as the result of chorionic villus sampling (CVS), an alternative to amniocentesis. In this, tissue is removed from the placenta at an earlier stage of pregnancy so that cells may be examined.

It is estimated that 40 babies have been damaged by CVS in Britain in the past ten years. In a third of these cases a limb was seriously affected.

GP magazine has a reassuring report on the situation. The danger seems to be confined to babies investigated by CVS before the eleventh week — present guidelines accept nine weeks as the earliest recommended time. At King's College Hospital, London, however, no abnormalities were detected in more than 150,000 babies who had been subjected to CVS. In all these cases the test had been done after the eleventh week of pregnancy.

Fussy eaters

BEFORE the war, children were encouraged to eat up their less appetising meals by being told to think how grateful Arab children would be for such wonderful food. During the war the message remained the same, but the faddy child was reminded of his or her contemporaries in Russia.

Similar conversations, it seems, took place around family tables in China. Jung Chang, the author of

Wild Swans, spoke at the International Writers' Day, organised by the Pen Club at the Café Royal, London, last weekend. She told her audience that when she was a child and was finding the noodles, or whatever, hard going, she was reminded of the deprivation suffered by children in a capitalist society.

Starvation such as is seen in parts of the developing world cannot be compared with any malnutrition in countries such as Britain, but Jung Chang's mentors may not have been entirely wide of their target. Last week it was reported that it is estimated that 250,000 under-fives may suffer from poor feeding. One in eight children aged between 18 months and two, and one in 12 of the under-fives, was suffering from iron-deficiency anaemia.

Advice offered included the suggestion that children should not have their appetites blunted by the drinking of sweet drinks between meals — even orange juice rich in vitamin C. Although vitamin C, taken with meals, may improve the absorption of iron, it discourages children from having a varied diet.

Will diabetics ever be free of the insulin needle?

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh reports on the latest developments designed to improve life for diabetics and reduce their risk of serious complications

Insulin-dependent diabetes changed from a death sentence to a life sentence in 1924 when the first insulin injections were given to human patients.

Some of the early recipients are alive and well, and still taking their daily injections. But many more have died or become disabled from the long-term complications of chronically high blood glucose levels: loss of sight, kidney failure, nerve damage, poor circulation, infections, and an increased risk of heart disease.

Gary Mabbutt, captain of Tottenham Hotspur, has been diabetic since he was a child and now takes four injections a day. He finds himself a role model for many diabetic youngsters, and gets many letters from them every week. "I'm lucky in that my diabetes seems to stay well controlled," he says, "but I wish I could say the same of all the kids who write to me. It's possible to incorporate diabetes into a completely normal life — if anyone knows that it's me — but I also know it isn't easy. I know there's a lot of research going on to improve care, but teenagers in particular still



A credit-card size battery-powered CSII external insulin infusion pump which gives a constant trickle of insulin

seem to have problems a lot of the time."

Insulin, a hormone normally produced by the pancreas, lowers the blood glucose level by encouraging the storage of glucose as starch (glycogen) in the liver, and by allowing glucose to enter muscle cells where it can be used as energy. People with insulin-dependent diabetes produce little or no insulin of their own. Without treatment they starve in the midst of plenty, since the

excess glucose in their blood cannot enter either their liver or muscle cells. Hence, the insulin-deficient, high-glucose state (hyperglycaemia) is characterised not by feelings of satiation and vitality but by profound tiredness, weakness and, eventually, unconsciousness.

Recent research studies have confirmed what many doctors had suspected for years — that diabetic patients can increase their chance of a long and healthy life by adjusting their insulin injections to give near-normal blood glucose levels for as much of the time as possible.

Ideally, blood insulin should remain at a constant low level between meals and overnight, with surges after each meal to cover the rise in blood glucose. In practice, a smooth background level of insulin may be impossible to achieve with intermittent injections. Most patients take two injections daily, each one a mixture of short and long-acting insulin, resulting in four daily peaks and troughs in their blood insulin levels.

One common problem is that the insulin level wanes towards the end of the night, producing the "dawn phenomenon" of high blood glucose levels on waking. If the patient tries to prevent this by taking more insulin at bedtime, he or she risks a dangerous lowering of the blood glucose level in the middle of the night, which can result in severe hypoglycaemia.

These problems, together with the obvious practical drawbacks of injections, have generated an industry of research into alternative methods of insulin delivery. The hormone cannot be given by mouth because, like any protein, it gets digested in the gut.

Insulin nose sprays were once thought promising but even with a chemical added to improve absorption, only about 40 per cent of the dose enters the bloodstream and it is impossible to regulate the absorbed dose accurately.

One realistic option is continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII), a constant trickle of insulin delivered by a tiny, battery-operated pump. CSII pumps can be programmed to increase the infusion rate at certain times of the day and, although a needle must be left permanently under the skin, the patient is saved from multiple pin-

pricks and the long-term health risks of wild swings in their blood glucose level.

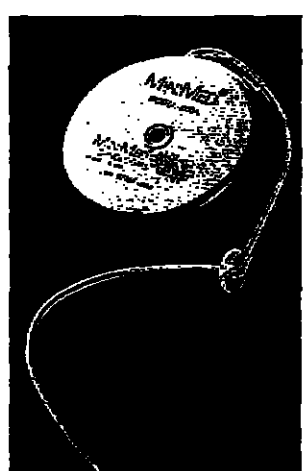
Brenda Joyce, a patient at the Royal Free Hospital, London, used a succession of CSII pumps for six years but stopped because of trouble getting spare parts. She says: "When I was using the pump, my blood sugar control was perfect. I felt completely in control because I could increase or decrease the flow of insulin just by clicking the box. I've definitely deteriorated since I went back onto injections."

Gary Mabbutt says: "I once considered having a pump but even if they made the device much smaller I would not be allowed to wear one during a professional game."

However, the recently published Diabetes Control and Complications Trial of 1,400 patients in America showed that those taking four injections a day, as he does, or using a CSII pump developed 75 per cent fewer eye problems and 40 per cent fewer kidney problems than those on standard one or two-injection therapy.

Nevertheless, some patients have abandoned CSII because they found the pump bulky, physically constraining, or socially conspicuous. The failure rate of these devices is low, but they cost £650 to £1,800 and are not available on the NHS.

Another type of pump, the intra-peritoneal insulin infusion (IPI) works from inside the patient's body. This has just been registered for European use after extensive clinical



An IPI internal insulin pump which works from inside the patient's body

trials, but is not yet commercially available. A refillable infusion pump, placed inside the abdomen by a surgical operation, gradually releases insulin into the tissues surrounding the gut.

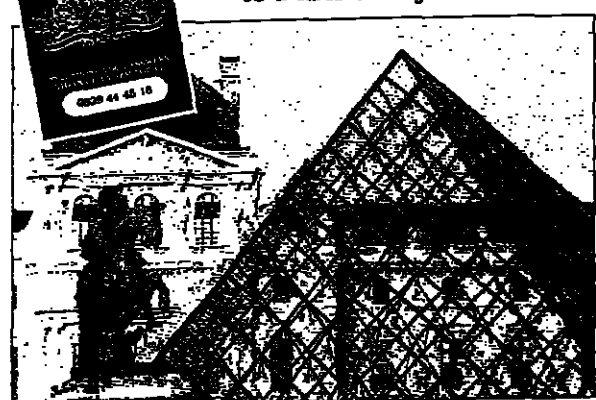
The IPI route has an important physiological advantage: it leads to high levels of insulin in the liver (where it is most needed), and lower levels in the general circulation (where it may cause damage in excess). Worldwide, more than 800 patients have been fitted with IPI pumps, which are made of titanium and driven by a four-year battery.

Unfortunately one-sixth of IPI devices have to be removed within a year because of blockage. The insulin used is highly concentrated and



Role model: Spurs captain Gary Mabbutt is living proof that diabetes need not be a bar to sporting achievement

THE TIMES Don't forget your passport



The Louvre: repository of the city's greatest art treasures

ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could be taking off later today for a short break in Paris.

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HOW TO ENTER

The winner of yesterday's *Prague* contest was *Northern Knights*, a shop supervisor from *Baskin-Robbins*, Essex. *Kate* claims to win the *hottest holiday* for two, ring 0800 44 44 36. *John* asks with the answers to the following questions. We will contact you later today if you are the winner: *Which river runs through Paris?* *What is the name of the tower in the centre of Paris?*

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 30p a minute, plus VAT, plus 4p at all other times.

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BLAIR ON GUARD

Risks and reasoning around an early general election

Tony Blair is dancing a delicate gavotte. With one neat step he is trying to play to four different partners: his party, his Shadow Cabinet colleagues, Conservative MPs and the press. Raising the spectre of a snap general election called by a new Tory leader, Michael Heseltine, is a risky tactic designed to achieve four separate outcomes at once.

The message to his party is clear. Clause Four is the beginning, not the end, of Labour's modernisation. The Left must continue to behave as if it were on an election footing, and that means no complaints about new policies, no bickering, no disunity. If the biggest danger for the Tories is defeatism, for Labour it is complacency. The risk of an impending election could exert discipline on Mr Blair's rabble.

The Labour leader has troubles too even nearer home. His three closest colleagues — John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook — dislike each other and all want control over economic policy. Yesterday's "election preparations" were in part a ploy to give all three men jobs which will make them feel important without treading on each other's toes.

Talk of a possible election is therefore helpful for party management. But more complex calculations come into play in judging the effect on the Tories. Mr Blair seems genuinely to fear the prospect of a new Tory leader. He was doubly lucky when John Smith died. Not only was he precipitated into the leadership, but the unpopular John Major, whose position had been perilous, was kept in place. Mr Blair probably thinks that talking about a Tory leadership contest not only destabilises the governing party, thus further damaging its popularity, but also helps to discount any improvement in poll ratings that might result.

In any such move, however, there are always unintended consequences. By talk-

ing up Mr Heseltine as the rescuer of the Tory party, Mr Blair is boosting the President of the Board of Trade's credibility. Tory MPs may see him as all the more attractive if he has such potency against Labour. Many voters think that he would be a better leader than Mr Major — and they may tell their MPs so.

Any new leader would have much to do to improve the Conservatives' fortunes. When Margaret Thatcher was replaced, in November 1990, her MORI personal approval ratings stood at 25 per cent, roughly the same as those of her Government. In most important senses, she and the Government were the same. Now, Mr Major is twice as popular as his Government. He is not an all dominating force. If he were replaced by Mr Heseltine, voters would need a great deal of persuasion that the same people were not still running the country.

There is no great policy shift that Mr Heseltine could easily make. He has no poll tax to replace. All he could add would be the energy and enthusiasm which inevitably accompany the start of a job, and a certain quality of leadership that Mr Major lacks. Whether that would be enough to close a gap of 32 points in the polls is questionable.

That may be why Mr Blair is talking up his chances. Other things being equal, he would rather fight Mr Major than Mr Heseltine. Yet he would prefer a general election now, even against Mr Heseltine, than in two years' time, when his poll lead is likely to be greatly eroded.

So Mr Blair is losing no time in recasting his party's image around the new Clause Four. At last night's *Spectator* lecture, his words on social responsibility were designed to chill the hearts of the politically correct Left, while warming those of the sensible majority. While his party is still supine, he will exploit its weakness — in the hope of winning an election against allcomers.

TO REBUILD RWANDA

How humanitarian aid has ensured a political void

The repatriation of two million refugees encamped in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi continues to be the pressing priority of the Rwandan Government. An estimated \$1 billion in international aid has been spent to date on facilities and food for the refugee camps which lie beyond Rwanda's borders. But the prospects remain grim.

Too much of the money has been spent in the camps themselves; almost nothing at all on the rebuilding of civic and political structures within Rwanda. The international community has walked into the trap set for it by the defeated — and genocidal — Hutu regime, ousted by force in July last year. Hutu extremist leaders, who had previously orchestrated the decimation of the Tutsi minority, terrorised thousands of their fellow Hutus into fleeing to camps in neighbouring countries. The exodus was effected by these leaders in the well justified belief that aid agencies would respond with material assistance, and that efforts to isolate them from the mass of the fugitive population would be feeble at best.

In a hard-hitting discussion paper, *Humanitarianism Unbound?*, the organisation African Rights described the response of aid agencies as "politically naive", for delegating authority in the camps to "precisely the same people as had planned and implemented the genocide". Where the priority should have been to disband the camps as soon as possible, these have been allowed instead to become semi-permanent. They now play host to an insurgency campaign against the new Government in Kigali.

The refugee camps, squalid and infernal to Western observers, provide better conditions than are available to most ordinary Zaireans, Tanzanians or Burundese living in adjacent villages: the water is mostly

potable, there is usually enough food, and medical facilities are at hand. A return to derelict Rwanda is, in the circumstances, made doubly unattractive by the menace of Hutu extremists who control the camps: large-scale repatriation will only be possible if their grip is broken.

This task cannot easily be accomplished. Yet little has so far been done to apprehend prominent Hutu extremists, the principal architects of Rwanda's genocide. They do not reside in the camps at Goma, or Kibumba, or Benaco, but at more salubrious addresses: 119 senior members of the former Government, army and *interahamwe* — the Hutu death squads — live in Nairobi alone. These include Lt-Col Tharcisse Renzaho, former prefect of Kigali; Dr Casimir Bizimungu, former health minister; Augustin Bizimana, former defence minister; Felicien Kabuga, formerly chairman of the notorious *Radio Libre Mille Collines*; and Jean-Baptiste Gatete, former mayor of Murambi, guilty of serious abuses in the Benaco camp.

Those who control the camps are of the lower and middle levels of the party structure. The swift arrest of their masterminds, such as those harboured by the Kenyan Government, would throw the foot-soldiers in the camps into disarray, thus loosening their grip on the ordinary refugees. Yet even this would be to little avail if money is not redirected to construction of accountable political structures in Rwanda itself. The office of the Special Prosecutor in Kigali, for example — which must try people for crimes against humanity — has no paper, typewriters, vehicles or cameras to record evidence. The new Government requires basic material and technical assistance: its needs must be met if Rwanda is ever to rebuild itself.

FRAGILE MONUMENTS

Attacks on statuary provoke ancestral fears

The decapitation of Henry Moore and David Mach sculptures in Scotland is unsettling for reasons which are not simply aesthetic. Every act of cultural vandalism provokes outrage in civilised people: the bombing of the Uffizi in May 1993, for example, inspired anger and shock all over the world. Yet the recent desecrations in Edinburgh and Dumfriesshire stir deeper emotions which are not easily accounted for.

Statuary plays a distinctive symbolic role in the life of a political order or community. No image of the American spirit is more potent than the Statue of Liberty; Nelson's Column epitomises the belief of Britons that London is still the capital city of a great nation. Such sculptures perform a straightforwardly decorative and commemorative function. They lend grace to cities and enshrine group memory. More profoundly, they can also suggest shared values and a social stability. We erect statues — whether a stern likeness of Bomber Harris or a more abstract image by Moore — as a request to future generations as well as for our own satisfaction.

Thus, the destruction of statues is often emblematic of the end of a regime and the beginning of a new one. Images of Lenin were pulled down all over Eastern Europe in 1989, giving vivid expression to the toppling of the communist hierarchy. Just as holy sculptures were a common target of the mob during the Protestant Reformation, Muslim

extremists have more recently threatened to blow up monuments to Dante as part of their war of attrition against Western culture. Because statues mark a society's sense of confidence and belief in its own permanence, they must be destroyed if that society is to be overturned.

It is, perhaps, this complex symbolic relationship between a social order and its statues which makes us so sensitive to such attacks, even when — as in the Scottish cases — they are apparently motiveless. The people of Athens were gripped by an elemental panic when they discovered that the Hermæ had been sacrilegiously mutilated overnight on the eve of the Sicilian Expedition in 415 BC. The omen was as bad as it was mysterious. It inspired what the scholar E. R. Dodds describes as "superstitious terror based on the solidarity of the city-state".

Some of this ancestral terror has survived the classical era and lingers in our own culture. One of the most potent literary images of punished hubris is Shelley's *Ozymandias*, "two vast and trunkless legs of stone" in the desert, urging the mighty to "look on my works... and despair!". Despair is too strong a word for the emotions stirred by the sight of a desecrated Moore sculpture on a Scottish hillside. But we should not be surprised that a frisson of unease seizes the modern soul when it is confronted by such acts of destruction.

Private lives of public figures

From Mr Frank Merron

Sir, Probity, sound judgment and decorum are integral in a man's character and cannot be expected to exhibit themselves in one area of his life and yet be suspended in another.

The British public, still hoping against hope, expects candidates for high office in the Establishment to be selected because they have such integrity. Where it is discovered that they do not, then, plainly, the public has a proper interest in such discovery and may reasonably require the dismissal of the official involved.

In the case of Rupert Pennant-Rea, former deputy governor of the Bank of England (reports and leading article, March 22), who apparently deceived his wife and his colleagues and behaved with a marked lack of decorum on the premises of the Bank, this, in my opinion, is a central point.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK MERRON,
18 Eltham Park Gardens, SE9,
March 22.

From Mr A. S. Fagg

Sir, Your newspaper today devotes considerable space to text and pictures recording the resignation of Mr Pennant-Rea and miscellaneous associated detail. I also find an editorial asking if people in the public eye should resign because of an incident in their private lives and unrelated to their job.

There would be no resignations if those involved knew that there would be no media interest. The public interest would be better served without this obsessive reporting: we would not lose able public servants to obscurity.

Yours faithfully,
A. S. FAGG,
11 Cunningham Hill Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
March 22.

From Mr Rob Kilby

Sir, The coverage of Rupert Pennant-Rea's resignation seems to accept that, whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, the adultery itself is little other than today's norm.

Our senses are being bombarded more than ever before with events which test our beliefs to the core. We look to the Church to guide us through, but simple and unquestioning belief in God no longer seems valid.

Yet, whether or not we believe in a god, why can't we continue to use the Ten Commandments as our creed, the belief set against which we test our opinions and actions? In the midst of parlous and eurotrash they remain concise, easy to understand, and definite.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. There can be no doubt, no interpretation.

Yours faithfully,
ROB KILBY,
59 Prospect Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Raymond Bixley

Sir, All employees in the media who are involved in the reporting of other people's lives should be required to sign a declaration that they have never been involved, or would be involved, in extra-marital affairs, fraud, prostitution, alcohol abuse, drug taking or any criminal activity.

The sooner we get back to a "first stone" philosophy the sooner we shall all get some peace.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BIXLEY,
Floodgates, Great Henny,
Sudbury, Suffolk.

From Miss Kate Woodrow

Sir, I am intrigued to know how wearing a sleeveless pullover (report, later editions, March 22) makes one "a maverick". Perhaps Frank Spencer was ahead of his time?

Yours faithfully,
KATE WOODROW,
144 and a half, Sinclair Road, W14,
March 22.

Brussels regulations

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Lord Tebbit predicts that people will "stop obeying laws made abroad" (report, March 21). Quite right!

Frankly, I am advising business people in my Euro-constituency to tell officials like environmental health officers, fire officers, health and safety officers, etc. to "sod off" when they claim to be enforcing Brussels regulations.

Their job is to enforce British regulations. Many of those impose intolerable burdens on British firms because they go well beyond what is in the original EC directive. Most become UK law as statutory instruments, sometimes passed when Parliament is in recess.

I invite Lord Tebbit to join me in launching a campaign of civil disobedience against Whitehall, town hall and county hall overzealousness.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
Bureau 827,
Van Maerlant,
European Parliament,
197-113 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels,
March 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

New powers for care of mentally ill

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health

Sir, The National Director of MIND and others (letter, March 16) put a sadly one-sided case on our Mental Health Bill that is now before Parliament. In concentrating on the compulsory powers contained in the Bill they have chosen to ignore the detailed requirements for consulting patients and those who care for them and for ensuring delivery of the necessary services.

The Government has steered a careful and sensitive course in preparing the Bill. Judicial and independent reports on tragic events involving a small number of severely mentally ill people who would be subject to various restrictions and to the power of a "super-visor" to convey them to a place where they would be offered (but would not be compelled to accept) treatment.

To many psychiatrists and others, this is the worst of both worlds. The mentally ill will be subject to the power of "arrest" to no apparent purpose. Psychiatrists remain deeply sceptical and believe that the Bill will not provide the extra public safety which the Government is hoping for.

It must now be clear that the problems which the Bill seeks unsuccessfully to address are much broader than at first appears. First, the resources in both the community and the hospital service for adequate mental health care are lacking. Secondly, the Mental Health Act 1983 is based on an outdated notion that medical care can take place only in mental hospitals. The vast majority of mental health care already takes place outside hospitals and we need a Mental Health Act which starts from that assumption and facilitates treatment and care wherever it is delivered.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BOWIS,
Department of Health,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1,
March 16.

Policy on control of nuclear arms

From the Secretary of State for Defence

Sir, Yesterday's letter from Lords Healey, Kennet and Mayhew questioned the Government's commitment to the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to disarmament. The Government is in fact wholly committed to obtaining an unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT, which we regard as the most effective means of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Lord Healey and his colleagues accuse the Government of delaying the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT). This is far from the truth. The UK is taking a very active and positive role in the negotiation of a CTBT, which we would like to see concluded as soon as practicable. Meeting our obligation to ensure the safety of our weapons is a legitimate concern which has been raised by all the nuclear powers; in any event, it is just one of a number of outstanding issues which remain to be addressed in the negotiations.

The letter also suggests that the

From the Registrar of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, The letter of March 16 from miscellaneous mental health groups indicating the controversial nature of the Mental Health Bill is broadly correct although it contains some oversimplifications. The Bill is indeed turning out to be controversial. The Royal College of Psychiatrists does believe that there continues to be a need for new powers to manage a very small and well defined group of patients in the community.

However, when one reviews the precise wording of the Bill, the problems immediately become obvious. Those who would be subject to the Bill are a relatively broadly defined group who would be subject to various restrictions and to the power of a "super-visor" to convey them to a place where they would be offered (but would not be compelled to accept) treatment.

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Yours sincerely,
CHRIS THOMPSON, Registrar,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1,
March 17.

Government appears unwilling to enter British strategic nuclear forces into negotiations. But the UK's deterrent is small in relation to those weapons stockpiled by the two major nuclear powers states, and is already being significantly reduced. When Trident is fully in service, the explosive power of the UK's operational nuclear inventory will be 25 per cent lower than it was in 1990. We have also withdrawn 50 per cent of our nuclear free-fall bomb stocks, and announced that the remainder will not be replaced. We no longer deploy dual-key weapons such as Lance. And in future, Trident will also be used to meet our sub-strategic requirements which would otherwise have to be met by air-launched systems.

In short, we take our obligations very seriously, and are determined to carry the NPT negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM RIFKIND,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, SW1,
March 21.

encourage students who held a place for the 1994-95 academic year to defer their entry. There was no indication given that fees would rise by such a huge amount, and no doubt many students who did defer, ourselves included, are now appalled to find that they are now financially disadvantaged to the tune of £1,200.

The ICSE may have solved its over-subscription problem, but at what cost to its students? We feel that yet again doubt has been cast upon the competence of the ICSE to be the initial control on entry to the Bar.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN MOFFETT,
S. J. DAVIES,
22 Amner Road, Battersea, SW11,
March 20.

From Mr Brian Bignmore

Sir, I studied, lived and worked in and around Oxford from 1977 until 1991 and based upon my listening experiences, over a good part of that period, I fail to see why Radio Oxford should attract such illustrious champions as the Bishop of Oxford and his co-signatories to defend it on grounds of "importance" and "pleasure to so many thousands of people".

The "town and gown" attitude of much of the city of Oxford is well known and recorded and I am inclined to suspect that these protestations are merely an extension of this attitude of mind. Would they be quite so concerned if Radio Berkshire were to be closed and incorporated under the banner of Radio Oxford?

I do not think so.

Yours faithfully,
B. BIGNMORE,
49 York Road,
Weston Mill, Plymouth, Devon,
March 17.

Sports letters, page 36

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Blue plaque snub for John Buchan

From Mr Peter Hopkirk

Sir, Margot Norman ("My false tribute to Hardy", March 17) is not alone in her brush with English Heritage over blue-plaque bureaucracy.

Some months ago I pointed out to English Heritage that John Buchan had no blue plaque on his London home, despite the fact that during World War One he lived at 76 Portland Place. Indeed, he was living there when he wrote his two most famous works, *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and *Greenmantle*.

To my astonishment, I was told that he was ineligible, despite the fact that he lived there from 1912 to 1919. The reason I was given was that his handsome terraced house, bombed in World War Two, had been rebuilt.

Surely this completely misses the point. The fact is that John Buchan, a man of enormous eminence in other fields, lived at this address, and deserves to be commemorated there.

Perhaps the present owners of this building should emulate Margot Norman's predecessors and erect an unofficial plaque to Buchan. Is it right that English Heritage, with their pettifoggish rules, should have a monopoly over our past?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HOPKIRK,
32 Quarrendon Street,
Parson's Green, SW6,
March 17.

Fishing dispute

From Miss Fern Roberts

Sir, What a pleasure to read Bernard Levin's article, "Canada comes of age" (March 17). As a Nova Scotian I am keenly aware that for years the problem of dwindling fish stocks has been approaching a crisis point in the North Atlantic. I am also aware that it has taken too long for the issue to come to the fore nationally and internationally.

For the polite and wishy-washy Canadian Government to have shot at the Spanish trawler *Estai* and held the ship and crew two weeks ago was thus an indication of extreme desperation in the face of perpetual overfishing and illegal fishing on the part of foreign vessels.

To see the EC and Britain act in defence of Spain is not only upsetting but short-sighted: if there is not a thorough conservation and policing effort now there will soon be no fish to squabble over.

Yours sincerely,
FERN ROBERTS,
38 Ladbroke Square, W11,
March 20.

Score by computer

From Mr D. A. Glading

Sir, I was pleased to learn from your report today that Gyorgy Ligeti, the avant-garde Hungarian composer, was impressed with the Sibelius 7 software system, and I hope that when he has seen the brochures he asked for, he decides to use this for compositions in future. Like many other composers, such as John Rutter, the system, which has been installed throughout the Royal Academy of Music, was written by two brothers, Ben and Jonathan Finn, in Cambridge.

However, you fail to give credit to the computer used. Like many other excellent pieces of software, it runs on Acorn Risc PC which was also designed in Cambridge. In this case, British is best, as I hope Gyorgy Ligeti will soon be able to confirm.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. GLADING,
43 Spalding Way,
Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex,
March 17.

Brill thrill

From Mrs Barbara Brill

Sir, Harold Pinter's article ("And thank you, Hackney Library", March 18) brought back vivid memories for me, as I, too, grew up in that part of London and can verify what fine libraries that borough had.

I was recently looking through a box of old theatre programmes and came across one for a production of *Romeo and Juliet* put on in April 1948 by the dramatic societies of the Hackney Downs Grammar School and the Dalston County Secondary School (which was actually a grammar school), which I attended. The part of Romeo was played by Harold Pinter and his friend and teacher, Joseph Brearley, apart from producing, also played the part of Escalus, Prince of Verona.

I well remember how we fourth-formers swooned at the young, good looking Mr Pinter. Oh, happy days.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA BRILL,
2 Tudor Close, Belsize Avenue, NW3,
March 20.

Multiple mums

From Mr Paul Batterbury

Sir, A sign in a shop window in Birmingham today was advertising Mothers' Day cards at "three for a pound".

Yours sincerely,
PAUL BATTERBURY,
11 Maze Green Road,
Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire,
March 16.



OBITUARIES

PETER WOODS

Peter Woods, journalist and television newsreader, died yesterday from cancer in hospital in Yeovil, Somerset, aged 64. He was born on November 7, 1930.

WITH his deeply-seamed features, bitten-in smile, and the most spectacular bags under the eyes in the business, Peter Woods was one of the most familiar of BBC television newsreaders between 1968 and 1981, when he left the corporation to go freelance. He had come to the small screen from newspapers, having been a distinguished foreign correspondent in the 1950s. As such he was among the first of those presenters who brought to television news the whiff of battle inherent in front-line journalism. This broke with a previous tradition which had seemed to place the emphasis on studio presence — immaculate turnout, suave good looks and carefully modulated accents.

Ironically, Wood was to live to see the presentation of television news retreat into a format which to him once more seemed to favour appearance rather than substance. On these, as he saw it, retrograde developments he delivered himself in robust terms, after leaving the BBC.

Peter Holmes Woods was born in Romford, Essex, the son of an inspector of taxes. While he was still a child his father was posted to the northeast of England. Woods junior was educated at Hull Grammar School during the war, but seems to have been unimpressed by the fact that he shared his *alma mater* with the celebrated poet Andrew Marvell. According to legend (a legend in no small part created by himself) he devised a method of getting the school flattened by shining torches into the night sky as the bombers of the Luftwaffe roared overhead on their way in to pound Hull docks. Fortunately the penetrative powers of the average pocket torch fell woefully short of achieving his somewhat farfetched objective. The historic



grammar school received not one bomb.

After leaving school Woods started in journalism on local newspapers, in Blyth and South Shields. From there he went to the Yorkshire Post, National Service followed, during which he was commissioned into the Royal Horse Guards.

Afterwards Woods went to the London office of the Yorkshire Post and from there, via the London evening paper *The Star* and the *Daily Mail*, arrived on the *Daily Mirror* where he was to spend several productive years.

Working mainly as a foreign correspondent, he had nine months in Cyprus in 1956, covering the height of

ign. When, in November of that year, the Anglo-French force staged its invasion of the Suez Canal Zone he persuaded the British military authorities to let him jump into Port Said with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, notwithstanding the fact that he had never parachuted before.

On the way to the dropping point, with heavy Egyptian flak hosing skywards, he confided this small oversight in his preparations to the sergeant next in line to him in the stick. The soldier assured him that since training jumps caused as many injuries as the real thing, he stood as much chance of getting to the ground in one piece as any of them — if he

were not riddled by Egyptian anti-aircraft fire first.

For the next 72 hours, as the only journalist on the action, Woods scribbled his dispatches and handed them to helicopter pilots who were flying out casualties to the aircraft carrier *Eagle*, offshore. These exclusive first-hand accounts of the battle were pooled and appeared in newspapers all over the world.

This was an enormous coup for the *Mirror* and as its author Woods seemed to have an assured career with the paper. Cecil King was so pleased with him that he awarded him a £2,000 bonus, a very hefty sum in those days. But, whether through jealousy or ignorance, the repeated whisper that Woods might have jeopardised lives at Suez by not revealing his ignorance of the basics of parachuting, blocked further dramatic promotion.

In 1959 he joined the BBC as a foreign reporter, covering the Algerian Civil War, the Cuban missile crisis and the building of the Berlin wall. In 1964 he moved to ITN where as the first head of its newly-established New York bureau he followed Martin Luther King on his civil rights marches and covered a multitude of other stories ranging from satellite launches to presidential elections.

In 1967 he rejoined the BBC and soon found himself covering the Six-Day War in Israel in that year and the final British withdrawal from Aden. In 1968 he became the first journalist to present the half-hour BBC2 news programme *Newsroom* before moving two years later to the BBC1 flagship *News at Ten*.

For the next thirteen years he became known as a colourful and highly-professional colleague within the BBC as well as having a considerable following on the viewer side of the screen, particularly among women who adored his craggy, unreconstructed looks. Unlike the generation of men who had been newsreaders from day one of their

ROBERT URQUHART



Urquhart as the wing commander in *Pathfinders*

Robert Urquhart, actor, died on March 20 aged 73. He was born on October 16, 1921.

ROBERT URQUHART was a Scottish character actor who played servicemen in a series of war films of the 1950s and 1960s. *Dunkirk*, *Mosquito Squadron*, *Foxhole in Cairo* and *Morning Departure* among them.

He rounded these off with a starring role in a television series *Pathfinders* (1972). This told the story of the Pathfinder Force, which flew ahead of the main bomber force and marked industrial targets in Germany with coloured flares. Urquhart played Wing Commander McPherson, in one of the few roles which allowed him to be Scottish.

But despite the stiff-upper-lip, serviceman tag with which he was most often labelled, Urquhart really excelled — particularly on the smaller stage of television drama — at playing life's heroic failures and mildly disreputable, smalltime villains. These called for a quality which Urquhart liked to joke was part of his Celtic heritage: "I believe that we Celts were an experiment in nature that failed. Gloom and a thirst for tragedy is second nature to all of us."

His Highland upbringing remained hugely important to him and for the past twenty years, he combined acting with running a rambling hotel and arts centre, "Cellidh Place", in Ullapool. Urquhart invited local artists to read, sing, dance and perform. He was born Robert Alistair MacLennan Urquhart in Arthur Hopcraft's *The Reporters* (1971), as the drink-sodden journalist Vic, who joins a provincial newspaper in order to escape the pressures of Fleet Street. There was also *The Queen's Arms*, in which he played a jingoistic publican, and *Playing Away*, in which he played a wise old countryman who tries to persuade the village cricket team to behave well towards a visiting black team from Brixton. In 1993 he co-starred in John McGrath's *The Long Road*, a Screen 2 production.

His success in *Pathfinders* was followed by another series, *The Amazing Mr Goodall* (1974), in which he played a retired M15 agent, on constant call to Whitehall. His theatre work included roles in *Shogun* at the National in 1988 and *Jenkin's Ear* at the Royal Court.

He married the actress Zena Walker in 1956. That marriage was dissolved, and he married, secondly, in 1976, Jean Elder. She survives him, together with a daughter from the first marriage and a son and daughter from the second marriage. A son from the first marriage predeceased him.

On television, a medium to which his understated style of acting and boyish features were particularly well suited, he gave one of his best performances in Arthur Hopcraft's *The Reporters* (1971), as the drink-sodden journalist Vic, who joins a provincial newspaper in order to escape the pressures of Fleet Street. There was also *The Queen's Arms*, in which he played a jingoistic publican, and *Playing Away*, in which he played a wise old countryman who tries to persuade the village cricket team to behave well towards a visiting black team from Brixton. In 1993 he co-starred in John McGrath's *The Long Road*, a Screen 2 production.

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HARRY GABB

Harry Gabb, cathedral organist, died on March 16 aged 85. He was born on April 5, 1909.

HARRY GABB was the organist to the Queen from the time of her Coronation, at which he played, in 1953 until his retirement in 1974, holding the title of Organist, Choir-master and Composer at the Chapel Royal in St James's Palace, concurrently with that of sub-organist at St Paul's Cathedral.

His predecessors in the post at the Chapel Royal, which was created in 1495, included Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, Purcell and Handel.

As such, Gabb was required to play at many state occasions, including the state

funeral of Sir Winston Churchill at St Paul's in 1965 and several royal weddings. He supplied the programme of Bach, Purcell and William Harris at the wedding of Princess Margaret in 1960, and Bach, Handel and Brahms at that of Princess Anne in 1973, both at Westminster Abbey. At the Coronation, Gabb was one of several organists chosen to play.

Gabb was an unrepentant traditionalist in his musical taste. Like most organists, his favourite composer was Bach and he disapproved of composers who introduced a modern beat to church music. His favourite hymns were *Jesu, The Very Thought of Thee* and *All My Hope on God is Founded*, written by Herbert Howells who had taught Gabb composition as a student.

He was a humorous man, and he always had a large pile of boiled sweets beside him at the keyboard.

The huge Willis Organ — a massive instrument with five manuals and 32 ft pipes — of St Paul's Cathedral was his chief pride for many years.

Some pipes were positioned in the dome, some in the choir and some at the altar, and as a result great technical skill was required to co-ordinate notes which might encounter a slight delay to sound after a key had been pressed. A friend commented of his brilliance at the Willis Organ: "He could make it sing, make it laugh, make it serious, make it grieve, make it thunder, make it whisper." He could stir the blood of the congregation with the most humble piece of church music.

William Harry Gabb was born in Ilford, Essex, the son of two musicians. He was educated locally and from childhood all he ever wanted to do was play the organ. He went on to the Royal College of Music, where he won the Kenneth Bruce Stewart prize for organ playing and the George Carter Scholarship for Organ and Composition. He gained his ARCO in 1928 and his FRCO in 1930.

He was also an inspiring teacher, being Professor of Organ-playing at Trinity College of Music, London. His pupils included the Duchess of Kent and Martin Neary, formerly one of Gabb's chorists and now the organist at Westminster Abbey.

He gave recitals all over the country, specialising in opening new and rebuilt organs. One of these, in 1973, was at the Norman church of St Lawrence, in the village of Chobham, Surrey.

Though the organ was nothing out of the ordinary for a village church, it was an enjoyable experience and after his retirement from the Royal College in 1974 the vicar of St Lawrence suggested Gabb should come to live there, which he did. He continued to play the organ until only two years ago, living next door to the vicarage in the former curate's cottage.

His wife Helen, also a musician who had taught at Benenden, died last autumn, and he leaves his son.

RUN ON A PENNY BANK.

The Westminster branch of the National Penny Bank in Victoria-street, Westminster, was the scene of considerable excitement yesterday in consequence of a run on it, the result of an unfounded rumour that the bank was to be closed. The first symptom of a panic was experienced on Wednesday, when the depositors presented themselves in large numbers to withdraw their investments. The resources of the bank at the time were very small but, notwithstanding, the clerks were engaged in paying out investments until 11 p.m., when, having applied to the Bank of England without avail, the depositors were informed that their demands would be met when the offices opened at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. So unexpected and heavy was the business transacted on Wednesday that the clerks were engaged until 2 o'clock yesterday morning in ledgering the withdrawals. This, however, did not prevent Mr. Barley, M.P., the managing member of the committee, and his staff from fulfilling their promise to the depositors, and accordingly, when the bank opened at 9 o'clock, it was found necessary to obtain the assistance of several constables to regulate the crowd of anxious persons who were thronging the place. Mr. Barley had

ON THIS DAY

March 23 1888

Penny banks were established in about 1850 and ten years later numbered over 200. The National Penny Bank had 13 branches in London, most open until 9pm.

obtained early in the morning a very considerable quantity of money from the Bank of England, and when the offices, which are by no means extensive as far as the public department is concerned, were thrown open, Mr. Barley, to whom the bank owes its origin, was prepared with £15,000 to satisfy the claims, in addition to £30,000 held in reserve at the office and £100,000 at the Bank of England, which could be fetched at any moment necessary might require. A system was arranged by which the depositors entered by the door in Victoria-street and passed out through a door in Strutton-ground. The

counter, a square box-like arrangement which would comfortably accommodate four clerks, but which was occupied by ten, was soon besieged by the investors, whose accounts were speedily settled by the clerks, who worked through the day without intermission.

Prominent among the statements which led to the run was one to the effect that the Duke of Westminster, in consequence of one of his racehorses losing a race, had lost a fortune. As a matter of fact, the Duke, although he breeds and runs racehorses, never bets, but nevertheless such was the statement given to Mr. Barley by a poor woman who withdrew £5 yesterday, and who attributed the withdrawals by the poorer depositors to this rumour. As the evening advanced it was found absolutely necessary to refuse deposits, the crush for withdrawals becoming so great. The depositors number about 70,000 and the deposits amount to about £483,000, while the excess of assets beyond every liability to the depositors is computed at nearly £20,000. As an illustration of the number of very poor depositors it may be stated that 22,789 out of the 70,000 depositors have less than one shilling invested, while on the other hand there are some depositors who have as much as £600 and £800 entrusted to the care of the National Penny Bank.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE WEDDING MORNING SUITS DINNER SUITS EVENING TAIL SUITS 11.10.1994 20 Chertsey Road, London W14 9LH Tel: 0181 734 2310	SERVICES PLUMBING Plumber, Gas Fitter, Heating Engineer, Bathroom Fitter, Kitchen Fitter, Central Heating, Radiators, Boilers, Hot Water, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	WANTED AUSTRALIAN PAINTINGS Melbourne Art Dealer Tel: 0181 734 2310	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will, please contact us. We can help you to make a will that is valid and meets your needs. Tel: 0181 734 2310
GIFTS A Birthday, Christmas, Wedding, Anniversary, etc. gift. Tel: 0181 734 2310	SITUATIONS VACANT Small, medium, large, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	WINTER SPORTS Ski, Snow, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and provide shelter for the homeless. Tel: 0181 734 2310
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Piano, Organ, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	TICKETS FOR SALE Football, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	ANNOUNCEMENTS Cherry, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	CHURCH HOUSING Tel: 0181 734 2310
RENTALS Office, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	TICKETS Football, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	ANNOUNCEMENTS Cherry, etc. Tel: 0181 734 2310	CHURCH HOUSING Tel: 0181 734 2310

NEWS

Blair battles for middle class vote

Tony Blair intensified his campaign to win over the middle classes last night with a pledge to tackle crime, vandalism, truancy and drug abuse by emphasising the duties and responsibilities of every citizen.

A Labour government would not hesitate to evict antisocial council tenants and prosecute parents of persistent truants, he said. Pages 1, 9, 16, 17

Minister meets loyalist leaders

The Ulster peace process was on the verge of a breakthrough as Sinn Féin predicted it could be holding talks with a British minister within days. The claim by Martin McGuinness that discussions could come as early as tomorrow was made after a minister met loyalist politicians with Protestant paramilitary links for the first time since the ceasefires. Page 1

Hurley returns

Elizabeth Hurley, the actress and model, was mobbed by camera-men when she returned to Britain for the trial of four girls accused of robbing her. Page 1

Vestey receivership

Union International, a pillar of the wealthy Vestey family's business empire, crashed into receivership at the end of a three-year battle. Union controls Dewhurst the butchers. Pages 1, 23, 25

Labour leads

Labour has consolidated its large opinion poll lead over the Tories as Kenneth Clarke scorned Tony Blair's talk about a snap election this year called by a new Tory leader. Pages 2, 9, 16, 17

£2m trial collapses

MPs urged an inquiry after a six-month fraud trial at Newport, Gwent, costing an estimated £2 million collapsed when the judge ruled that the evidence was too difficult for the jury to understand. Page 3

Sex case lost

A woman who claimed she was sacked by Abbey National after refusing an invitation to an executive's hotel room lost her sex-discrimination case. Page 3

Hounding 'absurd'

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that Rupert Pennant-Rea's hounding from the Bank of England was absurd. Pages 5, 16, 17

Victims' relations berate rail killer

The convicted Long Island railway killer, Colin Ferguson, was berated in a New York court by survivors and relations of his victims in an emotional finale to one of the most bizarre cases in American legal history. Ferguson was convicted last month of killing six people and wounding 19 when he opened fire in a crowded commuter train. Page 13

Japan raids

Police raids on Aum Shinrikyo, the cult implicated in the poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway, raised questions about how much the authorities knew in advance about the cult. Page 10

Queen in Africa

The Queen visited the Eastern Cape, South Africa's second poorest province, where she was greeted by bare-breasted dancers and by a crowd approaching 100,000 onlookers. Page 12

Minister resigns

Frank Vandenbroucke, the Belgian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who is embroiled in a corruption scandal, has resigned. He is succeeded as Foreign Minister by Eric Derycke. Page 13

Diet puzzle

Today's pre-school children are taller and heavier than those of 25 years ago, despite a diet that falls well short of the Government's recommendations. Page 6

Church criticised

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has criticised the Church of England for neglecting its spiritual mission to the inner cities. Page 7

Turkish attack

Turkish forces pounded suspected separatist Kurdish guerrilla bases deep inside northern Iraq for a third day. Page 11



Spring arrives in St James's Park, central London, and, as always, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love

BUSINESS

Midland: Midland Bank said 1,745 jobs will be axed as part of a shake-up of regional business banking centres. Page 21

Bank of England: The Bank of England's 3,500 staff are to be told of a major overhaul of the Bank's personnel operations. Page 21

Economy: The timing of the decision to raise interest rates last month was determined by the fragility of the financial markets, according to minutes of a meeting between the Chancellor and the Bank Governor. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 4.7 points to close at 3139.7. Sterling's index fell from 85.2 to 85.1 after a fall from DM2,459 to DM2,235. The dollar was unchanged at \$1.5880. Page 24

SPORT

Football: Gordon Strachan, the former Scotland and Leeds United midfielder, joined Coventry City as assistant manager to Ron Atkinson. Page 40

Motor racing: For many of the teams in the Formula One championship the seemingly glamorous world provides a dour struggle for financial survival. Page 36

Tennis: By reaching the last eight of the Lipton championships Pete Sampras has ensured he will remain the world's No 1-ranked player for the 100th week. Page 38

Racing: The Tote's record jackpot pool at Exeter was won after a series of short-priced winners. A rush of bets pushed the total prize-money over £2 million. Page 35

FEATURES

Homosexual clergy: "We were outed once — in *The Sun*," remarks the Rev Christopher Wardale. "Only we were so boring we only made page 11." Libby Purves on an average gay vicar. Page 14

BODY AND MIND

Sweet news: Diabetic patients can increase their chance of a long and healthy life by adjusting their insulin injections to give near-normal blood glucose levels, reports Dr Trisha Greenhalgh. Page 15

BOOKS

Arden Shakespeare: Derwent May finds that the new, third, edition of the Bard can hardly be bettered as foundation stones for a culture. Page 32

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

BLITHE SPIRITS
Could the Boo
Radleys be the Beatles
reincarnated? David
Sinclair reports

PLUS ...
The Valerie Grove
interview, the Bernard
Levin column and
Caitlin Moran

ARTS

Hollywood hit: Even on film, Nigel Hawthorne still dazzles and dominates in *The Madness of King George*; no wonder he has been nominated for an Oscar. Geoff Brown on the week's best cinema releases. Page 30

On show: Sandra Bank's painting belongs to international modernism, yet South Africa still seems to be at the root of her work, now on show in London. Page 30

Barnard on radio: Consumer programmes have been a growth area in radio over the past ten years, spearheaded by the BBC and, in particular, by Radio 4, writes Peter Barnard. Page 30

Unwelcome visitor: D'Oly Carte's new *Die Fledermaus* arrives at Sadler's Wells in London, but says Rodney Milnes, it is a production reduced to a sitcom. Page 31

THE PAPERS

Tokyo's 5.8 million commuters are frightened after Monday's co-ordinated attacks on three Tokyo subway lines with the nerve gas sarin. The vulnerability of urban life to terrorist disruption has been chillingly exposed. — *The New York Times*

Before the Tokyo subway attack there were three incidents where sarin had been positively identified. It is natural to wonder if the Japanese authorities have been telling less than they know. — *The Wall Street Journal*

TELEVISION

Preview: The unlikely alliance between America and its future enemy, Ho Chi Minh, is explored in *Timewatch: Uncle Ho and Uncle Sam* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Review: Peter Barnard looks at BBC2's weekend retreaters and finds them a curious bunch. Page 39

OPINION

Blair on guard

Tony Blair is dancing a delicate gavotte. With one step he is trying to play to four different partners: his party, his shadow cabinet colleagues, Conservative MPs, and the press. Page 17

To rebuild Rwanda

The new Rwandan Government requires basic material and technical assistance: its needs must be met if the country is ever to rebuild itself. Page 17

Fragile monuments

The decapitation of Henry Moore and David Mach sculptures in Scotland is very unsettling for reasons which are not simply aesthetic. Page 17

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The BBC has the odd belief that I am an authority on booking and editing. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Mr Heseltine is someone who makes the political weather. The belief that, with a flick of his mane, Mr Heseltine could revive Tory fortunes is the hope of many disgruntled Tories and the Opposition's fear. Page 16

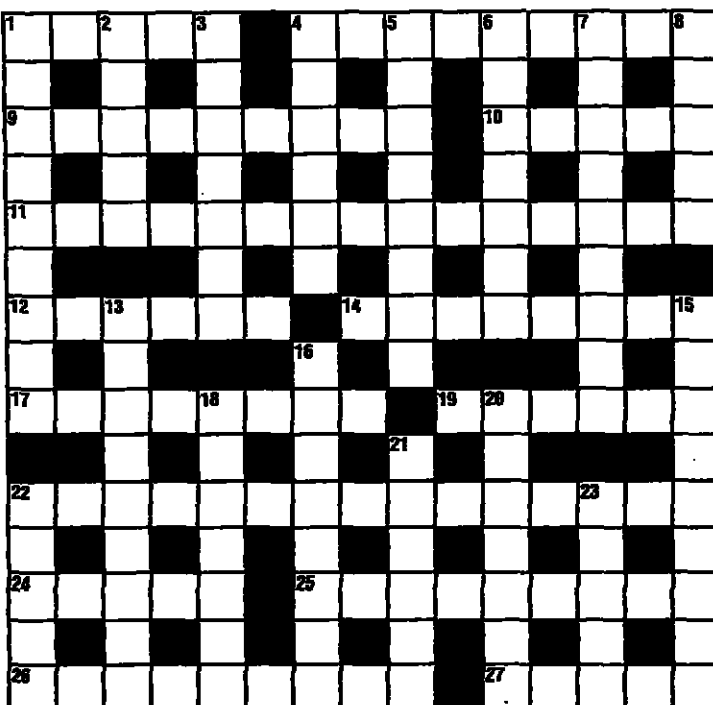
ALAN COREN

There is a proposal, I see, for a legal limit on noise of 35 decibels at a distance of 20 metres, above which the local authority would be empowered to send a couple of big blokes round to take you to Parkhurst — but, and here come the critical italics, provided that a complaint had been formally lodged. Page 16

Peter Woods, journalist and television newsreader; Harry Gabb, cathedral organist; Robert Urquhart, actor. Page 19

Private behaviour of Establishment figures as a matter of public concern. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,810



ACROSS

- 1 The capital's face value is written on it (5).
- 4 Ridiculous act, vandalizing a dirty bus (9).
- 9 Like plain material not examined for quality (9).
- 10 Caprice a king follows almost unimpeded (5).
- 11 Ragging storms torment Florentine extremists throughout the vessel (4,2,5).
- 12 Abraham, for one, requiring immediate action? (6).
- 14 Ropes found in empty boats wrecked in coves (8).
- 17 Watch gallery as a gambler? (8).
- 19 Aggressive person in army entering bar with raiden (6).
- 22 Flowers engross musicians in Virginia Woolf's set (10,5).
- 24 Hypodermic needle found in a doss-house (5).

DOWN

- 1 Breaches an advantage to rowing crews (4-5).
- 2 Page in clergy house lacking a means of transport (5).
- 3 Rocket designer loses bird to relative by marriage (7).
- 4 Ring fitting joint to a T (6).
- 5 Incitement to riot creates initially serious impression (8).
- 6 Denies employing tricks to pinch keys (7).
- 7 Gauche and graceless air originally observed in Tenniel's characters (9).
- 8 Unknown kingdom over in Canada (5).
- 13 Person of exceptional reputation almost holding up a man like the Pope (9).
- 15 Flagger energy is characteristic of its practitioners (9).
- 16 Raised objections, congenitally equipped to be self-willed (8).
- 18 Storm caused by English politician during trial (7).
- 20 A useless fish for sport (7).
- 21 Opening page missing from story of crop-producing land (6).
- 22 Simple sailor climbing in this way (5).
- 23 Old tax imposed on egghead like Humpty Dumpty (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,809

ACROSS
1 ALEXANDRIA
4 VANDALISM
9 UNEXAMINED
10 CAPRICIOUS
11 FLORENCE
12 ABRAHAM
14 ROPES
17 GAMBLER
19 AGGRESSIVE
22 VIRGINIA
24 NEEDLE

DOWN
1 CREW
2 TRANSPORT
3 BIRD
4 T
5 RIOT
6 DENIES
7 GAUCHE
8 TENNIEL
13 POPE
15 ENERGY
16 OBJECTION
18 STORM
20 FISH
21 PAGE
22 CLIMBING
23 TAX

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0381 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London: 701
Kent/Surrey/Essex: 702
South East: 703
West Midlands: 704
North Midlands: 705
North East: 706
Yorkshire: 707
East of England: 708
Wales: 709
Scotland: 710
Ireland: 711
Channel Islands: 712
Jersey: 713
Guernsey: 714
N. Ireland: 715
S. Ireland: 716
N. Wales: 717
S. Wales: 718
N. Scotland: 719
S. Scotland: 720
N. Ireland: 721
S. Ireland: 722
Channel Islands: 723
Jersey: 724
Guernsey: 725
N. Ireland: 726
S. Ireland: 727

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday, Highest day temp: Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Titchfield, Hampshire, 4C (39F); Highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 40.0mm; Highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 10.8h.

WPA

Said a fellow, "I hate it when I'm
Ragging holding on, it's a crime
But please WPA,
Just as they say,
They answer in very quick time!"

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales should be dry for the most part with sunny or clear periods and it will turn out warmer than yesterday. However, northern and western counties will become increasingly cloudy and unsettled.

Rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland will spread steadily south. Brighter weather with showers will follow the rain to all areas except the border counties. In general it will be milder than yesterday.

London, Central S, Central N, East, SW, E, England, Anglia, E, W Midlands, Cheshire will be dry with sunny or clear periods. Wind southerly light. Max 14C (57F).

Wales, NW England: dry sunny spells, cloudy later. Wind southwesterly moderate. Max 14C (57F).

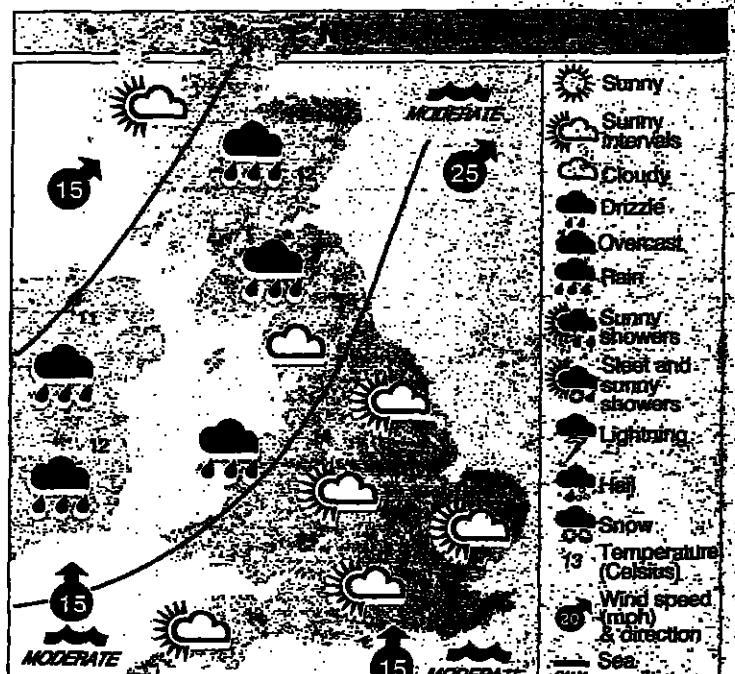
Lake District, Lake of Man, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland: dry with sunny intervals, cloudy with

AROUND BRITAIN

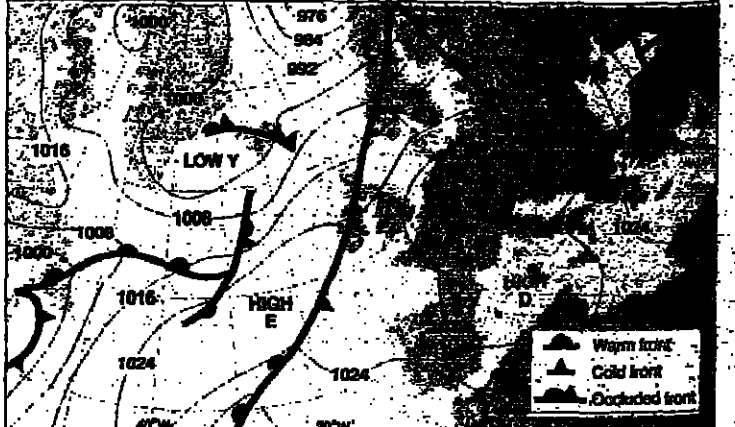
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s
Madrid	14	57	s	14	57	s



Changes to the chart below from noon: High E and high D will merge and slowly weaken. Low Y will move northeastwards and gradually fill.



HIGH TIMES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54
London	8.7	12	54	s	12	54

ECONOMY

Midland to cut further 1,745 jobs

Bank of England

THE Bank of England: 2.5m must be told today of a major overhaul of the Bank's personnel structure. A task started at the beginning of the year by Sir Brian Peacock, the Governor, will be completed by the end of the year. The staff changes have been agreed by the Bank's directors, who agreed that as he is bound by Bank rules not to accept any employment for the next three months, he should be paid three months' salary. Based on his £100,000 salary, that is £45,000. The staff changes have been agreed as further progress in making

ECONOMIC VIEW 25



Janet Bush looks at the global currency turmoil

BOOKS 32,33



Martin Amis's comedy on a cosmic scale

SPORT 35-40



Counting the cost of competing in Formula One

AIM ON TARGET ACCOUNTANCY
Page 28

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 23 1995

Midland to cut further 1,745 jobs

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND, the listening bank, is axing 1,745 jobs in Britain this year in what it described as "enhancing its commitment to community banking".

The bank hoped that most of the cuts would arise through natural staff turnover, early retirement and voluntary redundancy, but it could not rule out compulsory redundancies.

Midland's announcement marked the second wave of job cuts this year and will take the total to 2,065, including those lost in the centralisation of back office work announced in December. The news drew fierce criticism from Bifu, the banking and finance union, while Labour said that it explained exactly why there was no "feel-good factor" in Britain. John Brawley, Bifu's assistant secretary, said: "It seems that record profits equate to record cuts."

Keith Whitson, Midland's chief executive, said that the job cuts were a serious concern to the bank, but that the Midland was in "a fiercely competitive market where we have to run incredibly fast to stand still in terms of revenues." He added: "In an environment where our margins, fee income and revenue in general are under increasing pressure we have to act to preserve our local focus and customer service."

The bulk of the cuts will be in junior management and clerical positions. While some branch jobs will be affected,

stark contrast to those of competitors. He said that rivals were "taking out senior staff and running branches with more junior staff. I think that is less attractive for the customer. Customers like to feel that they are dealing with someone who has decision-making ability."

Mr Whitson said that there would be a number of benefits from the changes, including greater accountability of branch managers and a reduction in costs. He said that this year's reorganisation would give more senior managers greater authority and enable branch managers to make up to 80 per cent of lending decisions, with decisions on particularly large or unusual loans referred upwards.

He could not guarantee that there would be no further job cuts next year. "It would be foolhardy to say what we are going to do in 1996. If we do not see the revenue growth that we need then it may be necessary to have further cuts. If the revenue grows, we can afford the cuts."

Midland, which is owned by HSBC Holdings, the international banking group, made a £905 million profit last year, up by £61 million thanks in part to a fall in bad debt provisions. HSBC increased its profits to £3.17 billion last year, from £2.58 billion in 1993.

Midland increased its staffing levels last year, with its total headcount rising by 800 to 45,900. However, this reflected a recruitment of staff to its First Direct telephone banking division, which offset about 800 job cuts in other parts of the bank.

Bifu noted that the number of jobs lost in the finance industry in the past five years had risen to 115,000 and added that a further 35,000 are at risk this year. The number of banking jobs lost last year was 14,000, after 17,500 in 1993.

The union said that a further 10,000 banking jobs had been targeted this year and that workers at building societies were threatened with redundancy, through mergers.

Ian McCartney, the Shadow Employment Secretary, described the job cuts as "disgusting". He said: "The Midland Bank is showing exactly why there is no 'feel-good factor' in the country. While profits are going through the roof, staff are heading for the job-centre. It seems that helping your employer to make a profit is just as likely to lose you your job than help you keep it."

Pennington, page 23



Frank Eaton, chief executive, left, and Sir Lawrie Barratt by the River Thames yesterday. They are unhappy with the Government's tax and benefit reforms

Barratt fights for housing benefits

By NEIL BENNETT

SIR Lawrie Barratt, the chairman of Barratt Developments, Britain's leading housebuilding group, has attacked the Government over its tax and benefits initiatives in the housing market, and vowed to overturn the Government's plans to cut back housing income support later this year.

Sir Lawrie said: "We are violently opposed to the move, we believe it is fundamentally and morally wrong. It is very much a retrograde step that leaves unemployed people helpless like that." Barratt, along with other builders, is lobbying the Government to rethink its decision to withdraw support for the newly unemployed.

Sir Lawrie also condemned the recent cuts in mortgage interest tax relief and called for a return to the values of the Thatcher administration in the 1980s which promoted home ownership. Frank Eaton, chief executive, added: "Unless the Government is on a suicide mission, they have to recognise the difficulties in the industry and stop the folly of placing hurdles in front of home owners. You cannot tamper with individual assets to the degree they are — 17 million homeowners voters will not forget it."

Despite the pressure in the housing market, Barratt increased pre-tax profits in the six months to December 31 to £1.1 million, after a 17 per cent rise in sales to 2,688. The interim is lifted a quarter to 2.5p. The company spent £80 million on land and Barratt plans to open two more subsidiaries, in Southampton and Essex.

Tempus, page 24

Rate rise was caused by fragile markets

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE timing of the decision to raise interest rates in February was determined by the fragility of the financial markets but both the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, were agreed that monetary policy had to be tightened because growth was unsustainable, according to the minutes of the meeting between them.

Eddie George, the Governor, argued that the markets were unsettled given the Mexican crisis and that London's markets were confidently expecting a base rate rise either in February or March.

"To delay and then have to move under market pressure would be very damaging to the whole approach to monetary management that was being pursued," the minutes quoted the Governor.

On the other hand, Mr George wanted to avoid the impression that the process of monetary tightening was speeding up, causing "markets to exaggerate, even more than they appeared to do already, the degree of inflationary pressure and the level of rates needed to bring it under control".

Kenneth Clarke broadly agreed with the Governor's arguments and said that he was happy to leave market tactics with the Bank.

Growth of 4 per cent in the fourth quarter against a year earlier was judged unsustainable and there was agreement that inflation was beginning to feed through the production chain. However, both men recognised signs of slowing activity — the price of sterling's sharp fall in recent weeks, there appeared to be little concern at that stage about the pound.

Yesterday, the pound continued to recover lost ground. Its trade weighted index closed at 85.1 compared with 84.8 on Tuesday night.

□ The US trade deficit shot up to \$12.23 billion in January, from \$7.26 billion in December, as imports hit record levels and exports sagged, according to Commerce Department figures.

Economic view, page 25

Abbey asks ING to sell joint venture

ABBAY NATIONAL is in talks with ING, the Dutch banking and financial services group that bought Barings earlier this month, about the acquisition of the former Abbey National Baring Derivatives joint venture it set up in 1993 (Patricia Tehan writes).

The operation changed its name to Abbey National Financial Products (ANFP) earlier this month in an attempt to distance itself from the Barings collapse. It is not taking on new business while negotiations are under way.

An Abbey spokeswoman confirmed that the bank is in discussions with ING and added: "At this stage it is more likely than not that ANFP will cease to be a joint operation later this year and that the business will be operated solely by Abbey."

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	2150.7	(+4.7)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE All share	1555.21	(+1.77)
Nikkei	18804.84	(+225.11)
New York		
Dow Jones	4071.23	(-1.38)
S&P Composite	494.44	(-0.83)

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	102 1/2	(102 1/2)
Yield	7.46%	(7.46%)

3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long gilt		
future (Mar)	102 1/2	(102 1/2)

New York		
\$	1.5860	(1.5860)
London		
\$	1.5871	(1.5845)
DM	2.2303	(2.2451)
FF	7.3010	(7.5900)
SF	1.5502	(1.5595)
Yen	141.08	(141.25)
E Index	85.1	(84.8)

Tokyo close Yen 88.85		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$16.90	(\$16.70)
London close	\$382.15	(\$383.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

Coming soon

General Cable announced yesterday that it would inaugurate the spring flotation season with a share offering to raise between £198 million and £230 million. Two rivals, Nynex CableComms and Videotron Corporation, are expected to come to market about the same time. Page 22

On the road

NFC, the troubled freight and removals group, has appointed a new chief executive after a four-month search to turn the company around. Gerry Murphy, the former chief executive of Greencore, will join NFC at the beginning of June. Page 23, Tempus 24

Barings missed regulatory net

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMPETITION between Singapore and Japanese futures exchanges probably exacerbated the Barings crisis, the leading representative of UK derivatives traders claimed last night.

Michael Jenkins, chairman of the Future and Options Association, told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that exchanges in the two countries were vying for business in Japanese share index futures. This may explain the lack of contact between the two countries' respective regulators, which could have alerted the Barings group and authorities to its heavy exposed trading positions earlier.

Mr Jenkins said: "Regulation is local while business is global." He admitted that regulation was therefore inadequate in the sense that more international co-ordination between regulators was needed. He said he was surprised that the Singapore authorities had not contacted the Bank of England, the national lead regulator, for the Barings group, over excessive trading by its Singapore subsidiary.

In its written evidence to the Committee's inquiry into derivatives, the association argued that regulatory issues must be handled on an international basis.

The association claimed that there was no need for further tiers of regulation but that existing rules should be monitored and enforced better.

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Directors agree to pay former deputy governor £45,000

Bank of England staff face shake-up

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Bank of England's 3,500 staff will be told today of a major overhaul of the Bank's personnel functions, a task started at the beginning of the year by Rupert Pennant-Rea, the deputy governor who resigned on Tuesday after disclosures of an affair with a journalist.

The 17 members of the court of directors of the Bank met yesterday to formally accept his resignation. They agreed that as he is bound by Bank rules not to accept any employment for the next three months, he should be paid three months' salary. Based on his £180,000 salary, that is £45,000.

The staff changes have been intended to make the Bank more commercial and bring it a step closer to the day when the Bank is independent. Staff will be informed of the changes in *The Bank Fortnight*, a staff newspaper.

Roy Lecky-Thompson, the head of personnel brought in by Mr Pennant-Rea last December, is now heading the reorganisation. Mr Pennant-Rea and Mr Lecky-Thompson had spent the past three-and-a-half months examining all of the Bank's staff requirements, looking into its career planning, recruitment policies, and retention records.

Mr Lecky-Thompson wants to see more recruitment of senior, "mid-career" staff. The newsletter tells staff that there is to be a shift from "1950s paternalism", where there was automatically a job for life and which was inconsistent with the economic realities of the 1990s.

There is to be an emphasis on giving staff more of a choice in how their careers will develop. The Bank is also working on a new remuneration scheme for its managers, linking more pay to performance. It will come into force next March.

Mr Pennant-Rea, a former editor of *The Economist*, was in charge of staff administration. He felt he had to go because the weekend disclosures, which included the allegations from Mary Ellen Synon, his mistress for three years, that she was smuggled into the Bank under an assumed name and that they made love in the dressing room of Eddie George, the Bank's

Governor, had damaged his credibility. The personnel changes are a consequence of the restructuring put in place by him last July, a year after he became deputy governor.

The search for a new deputy governor started yesterday, with the four executive directors — Mervyn King, the chief economist, Ian Plenderleith, the markets director, Brian Quinn, director of supervision and surveillance, and Pen Kent, director of financial infrastructure — as possible candidates.

Mr Kent, who was put in charge of the development of Crest, the paperless share settlement system, when the Stock Exchange's Taurus project collapsed, and Mr Plenderleith are the most heavily tipped insiders.

EBRD decision on nuclear power scheme postponed

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest project to date from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) appears at risk after a surprise request from Slovakia for a crucial funding decision for a controversial DM1.45 billion nuclear power scheme to be postponed.

The EBRD's board of directors had been set to approve a crucial DM1.45 billion bank loan next Monday towards the Mochovce nuclear project in southeast Slovakia until yesterday's request from the Slovak Government. Confronted

with the open-ended postponement demand from Slovakia, the client state, the directors had no choice but to agree.

No decision is now expected until after the EBRD annual meeting in London on April 10 and 11, which means that Mochovce is likely to become a big issue for the finance ministers and central bankers who form the governing body.

Austria, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Portugal and The Netherlands have come out against the project and others are expected to join

them. America has yet to decide on the issue, but fears have been aroused in Washington that Mochovce could pave the way for Soviet nuclear plant in Cuba to be completed.

James Scheuer, the EBRD's American director, said that the West had to help Slovakia understand that it must manage the demand side for energy better as it was already awash with very inefficiently used energy.

The Slovak Government said it called for the postponement after last week's overwhelming vote in the European Parliament in favour of halting all EBRD and European Union funding for Mochovce until it was firmly established that EU safety standards would be met.

But electricity price rises, on which the financing of Mochovce is based, are also understood to have alarmed Slovakia, as has the condition that its ageing, low-cost nuclear plant at Bohunice has to be closed, if Mochovce's four Soviet VVER-440/213 pressurised water reactors are brought on stream.

Critics of the project have claimed that the EBRD has been strongly influenced by Electricité de France (Edf), the French state power utility. Edf would not only be a leading equity party at Mochovce, but would be main contractor and co-operator, receiving a construction contract of almost DM1 billion.

Experts from the International Atomic Energy Authority say that the plan for Mochovce favoured by the EBRD executive would produce a nuclear plant that did not meet Western licensing standards. To complete Mochovce to Western standards would cost about three times the EBRD figure, atomic energy authority officials say.

The bank counters that its scheme is the lowest-cost energy option for Slovakia.

General Cable set for market

By ERIC REGULY

GENERAL CABLE announced yesterday that it would inaugurate the spring flotation season with a share offering to raise between £198 million and £230 million. Two rivals, NYNEX CableComms and Videon Corporation, are expected to come to market about the same time.

General's offering, based on the sale of 90 million ordinary shares priced between 220p and 255p, values the company at £557 million at the low end of the scale and £646 million at the high end. The price of the shares will be set on April 19.

The flotation will reduce the ownership of Compagnie Générale des Eaux de France, from 100 per cent to 58 per cent.

Analysts expect the flotation to succeed partly because General has broad exposure to the high-margin telephony market. Roughly two-thirds of the £33 million of revenue generated in its three franchise areas — west

London, Birmingham and Yorkshire — comes from residential and business telephony service.

General plans to sell 45 per cent of the shares in America, where they will be listed on the Nasdaq market, 45 per cent in Britain, and the rest in the international market.

The British tranche, however, is an "intermediaries offer", meaning that shares will be placed directly with City investment firms, which, in turn, will sell them to retail buyers.

General has been planning to float since last spring, when poor market conditions forced it to shelve its initial public offering.

NYNEX is expected to float on the London and Nasdaq markets as early as next month. Videon plans an initial public offering next month as well. Its shares will be listed on Nasdaq only.

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Looking to the Continent: Geoffrey Gahan, chief executive of Newman Tonks

Newman spends overseas

By MARTIN BARROW

NEWMAN TONKS said its UK manufacturing activities, hampered by the slow pace of domestic recovery, would benefit from the company's expansion in continental Europe, where it expects significant long-term growth.

The building products group spent more than £12 million on acquisitions last year, including purchases in Denmark and Norway. It already has an associated company in Spain, as well as a

number of fully owned businesses in America.

Last year acquisitions contributed to a rise in profits to £20.2 million before tax from £15.8 million in 1993, lifting earnings to 10.65p a share from 7.6p. The total dividend rises to 6.75p a share from 6.20p with a 4p final dividend.

Operating profits from UK companies rose to £8.3 million (£6 million), while US interests contributed £5.8 million (£4 million). Europe, exclud-

ing the UK, earned £6.9 million (£5.9 million).

Investment in the business resulted in a rise in borrowings to £38.1 million from £27.9 million, representing gearing of 59 per cent.

The company is proposing to offer holders of the 6.75 per cent convertible redeemable preference shares an opportunity for early conversion or redemption, aiming to avoid a possible outflow of up to £7.4 million by April 30, 1997.

UK service launched by Telstra

Telstra, Australia's state telecommunications company, has launched a British service. It will go after companies that need telephone links to the Asia-Pacific area.

Boyd Faulks, Telstra's London managing director, said it wants to win at least 10 per cent of the traffic between Britain and the Asia-Pacific region by the end of 1997. That market, now worth £130 million a year, is doubling every eight years.

Telstra, which received its British operator's licence last year, will offer a leased-line voice service to British companies and fax lines and voice services to small business customers. The Australian Trade Commission is its first client. Mr Faulks said the company expects to have 30 large business clients by the year end.

Loral buys

Loral, the US group, has bought the defence and aerospace operations of Unisys for \$862 million. In recent years the firm has bought Ford Aerospace for \$715 million and IBM's Federal Systems for \$1.57 billion. Since 1985, sales have grown from \$502 million to \$5.4 billion, while the number of employees has risen from 6,500 to 33,000.

Cooper ahead

Frederick Cooper, the specialist coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products maker, raised pre-tax profits in the half-year to January 31, to £3.4 million (£2.4 million). EPS were 3.5p (same) and the interim dividend is held at 0.8p, payable July 3.

Promise met

Churchill China is paying a maiden final dividend of 2.19p a share for the year to December 31, as promised on flotation in 1994. Pre-tax profits were £3.57 million (£2.42 million), and EPS were 25.5p (17.9p). Turnover from continuing operations rose to £42.4 million (£36 million).

Vard to delist

Vard, the troubled Norwegian shipping group that is parent of the Klostet cruise line, said it has decided to delist its shares from the London Stock Exchange on April 3, less than five years since it was listed. Vard will keep its Oslo listing.

Britannic joins debate on life funds

By ROBERT MILLER

BRITANNIC Assurance has joined the growing band of insurance companies seeking a government ruling on whether shareholders or policyholders and savers are entitled to any surpluses from long term life funds.

The issue came to the fore last month when United Friendly announced that the Department of Trade and Industry had approved a restructuring plan to distribute to shareholders millions of pounds of surplus funds, sometimes called "orphan assets". Refuge Group then announced that it, too, would start discussions with the DTI, the overall regulator for life companies.

Sir John Nott, the former cabinet minister and now chairman of Hilldown Holdings, said this week that plans to distribute surplus assets to shareholders could be against the interests of policyholders. He is a with-profits policyholder with Legal & General, which has said it is to hold further talks with the DTI.

Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary of Britannic, which yesterday announced net profits for 1994 of £31 million against £27.2 million previously, said: "The process of consulting the DTI will clarify what proportion of a life fund's assets actually belong to policyholders and which belong to shareholders. This will benefit both sets of investors and avoid future conflicts of interests."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Base	Bank Safe
Australia \$	2.28	2.11
Austria Sch	16.80	15.30
Belgium Fr	49.29	44.89
Canada C	2.33	2.17
Cyprus Cyp	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.58	8.78
Finland Mk	7.25	6.50
France Fr	6.58	7.73
Germany Dm	2.39	2.19
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong \$	12.81	11.81
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lit	3,204.00	4,454.00
Japan Yen	278.00	264.00
Malta	155.50	139.50
Netherlands Gld	0.599	0.544
Norway Kr	2.667	2.437
Portugal Esc	10.58	9.78
Spain Ptas	247.00	228.00
Sweden Kr	212.00	198.00
Switzerland Fr	12.12	11.32
Turkey Lira	2.00	1.82
USA \$	1.884	1.754

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as of close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Maxwell deal wins approval of courts

THE joint administrators of Maxwell Corporate Communications have obtained the approval of both the English and US courts for the settlement agreed with the Maxwell pension fund trustees. However, this remains conditional on settlement agreements being finalised between the trustees and other contributors to the settlement. Provided the settlement becomes unconditional, MCC will admit an unsecured claim of £100 million to rank for dividend equally with other creditors.

The Price Waterhouse administrators, in their most recent report to Maxwell Corporate Communications creditors, estimated that they will receive between 35 per cent and 43 per cent of their claims plus an unspecified amount in respect of recoveries from legal actions. The administrators intend to pay a first dividend to creditors on March 31 of some 19 per cent. The pension funds will participate in this dividend if agreements with other contributors are finalised in time. If agreement is finalised by tomorrow, the first dividend could increase to some 26 per cent.

Railair looks south

RAILAIR, the management team currently running the Gatwick Express rail service, yesterday announced plans to bid for the 171-station South Central passenger franchise serving Surrey, Sussex and the south coast. South Central is one of the first eight franchises to come up for auction under rail privatisation and also operates a rival Gatwick airport service from Victoria station. A spokesman for Railair said the company planned to upgrade services to Brighton if it won.

Lehman rating falls

LEHMAN BROTHERS debt was downgraded yesterday after the firm reported first-quarter results slightly below expectations at 31 cents a share. Total revenues touched \$3.1 billion (\$2.3 billion). Moody's Investors Service said it was lowering Lehman's long-term senior debt rating to Baa1 from A3, as well as on other categories. Some \$15 billion of debt securities are affected. The move makes Lehman one of the lowest-rated Wall Street firms. Meanwhile, PaineWebber said it will lay off 500 because of the slump in securities.

Pension fund move

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the food and drinks group, has contracted out administration of its £800 million UK pension fund to Hogg Robinson Financial Services. Ron Army, GrandMet's group compensation and benefits director and the current chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "There is a very clear move to put pension fund administration work out to tender because of increasing legislative demands." The fund management of GrandMet's scheme is split between Mercury, BZW and M&G.

BAT seeks ITC changes

BAT INDUSTRIES, the tobacco and insurance group, is seeking the resignation of Krishan Chugh, chairman of ITC, its Indian affiliate, after discovering financial irregularities there. News of the problems at ITC, which is listed in Bombay, coincided with the closure for a third day of the Bombay Stock Exchange, after R.S. Javeri, the broker, declared a default of more than 170 million rupees (£3.4 million). The markets fear the surge of foreign interest in the Indian market might fade, if regulation is seen to be lax.

Trinity Holdings ahead

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, the newspaper publisher whose titles include Liverpool's *Daily Post*, lifted 1994 profits to £22.9 million before tax from £19.8 million in the previous 12 months, helped by the acquisitions of the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* and *Argus Newspapers*. The company also said it was pleased with contributions from titles in Scotland and Canada. With earnings rising to 24p a share from 20.2p, the total dividend is increased to 10.7p a share from 9.7p, with a final 7.4p due on May 5.

Recovery lifts BNB

BNB RESOURCES, the recruitment, training and consumer communications group, said that an increase in profits to £3.62 million before tax in 1994 from £2.59 million previously reflected a continuing economic recovery in Britain, America and the Far East. Profits rose in spite of a £596,000 exceptional charge against the disposal of Barmers Manchester Consumer Communications. Earnings improved to 12.9p a share from 8.7p. A final dividend of 3.73p a share, due on May 26, makes a total of 5.5p (4.9p).

Abbott Mead advances

ABBOTT Mead Vickers, the advertising agency, said it had won more than £32 million of new business so far this year. David Abbott, chairman, left, said the company would survive to enhance operating margins from a current 15.6 per cent. Profits in 1994 rose to £8.22 million before tax from £4.75 million. Earnings of 15.68p a share compared with 9.33p previously, restated for a one-for-one bonus issue of shares. A final dividend of 5.15p a share, payable on June 16, makes a total of 7.40p (5.25p).



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Tel: (020)6678000 (switchboard)
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NFC chief ex guide

NFC... chief executive... guide... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read in this section.)

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MANAGEMENT VIDEO

Winning Ways with Brian Redhead... My Name... Address... Postcode... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read in this section.)

□ Banks take the prime cuts at Union □ Bad tidings from Whitson □ Slovaks halt the juggernaut

The butchers of Lombard Street

NOBODY bearing the name Vestey is likely to emerge with much joy from the collapse of The Union International, but the banks have certainly looked after themselves. This is a common pattern: you do not put the receivers in when the client is on the ropes, but when the last bell is not far off and he looks like making it to the end of the bout.

Terry Robinson was put in by the bankers in October 1991, when the debts were £430 million, with a three-year standstill agreement and instructions to cut them. Three years later, debt was down to £100 million after the sale of the French Frigorifique operation and various New Zealand meat companies. The banks allowed a further six-month extension, and then pulled the plug.

So far, so simple, but with anything involving the financial affairs of the Vestey, it gets more complicated from then on. The banks first wanted to put Dewhurst into receivership, which would have left the debts neatly with Union, the parent company, to be paid off out of the proceeds. Just what Dewhurst's chain of 350 branches is worth is somewhat conjectural, but commercial property is on the up again even if the market for high street butchers has been savaged by the inroads made by the big grocers, who have about half the

meat retail market. Such a chain is therefore valuable even if it never sells a pork chop again.

The Vestey, who are maintaining their usual Garboesque silence, jibbed at this. They were required to put in £35 million of their own cash and various property assets at the start of the standstill agreement, and they clearly felt that if the prime asset was to be pulled to the ground, so too should the entire temple.

Union is therefore in administrative receivership, which means the other assets can continue to trade and be sold. These include three distribution businesses — Weddell Swift, Topman Thurlow and Dual Carriage — which are not themselves especially reliant on Dewhurst as a customer, and five square miles of developable land spread around Australia. It is not hard to get these assets plus Dewhurst to add up to the £100 million the banks are owed. The latter, having probably already provisioned for this, therefore have some healthy writebacks to look forward to.

The Vestey are left with the rest of their business empire.

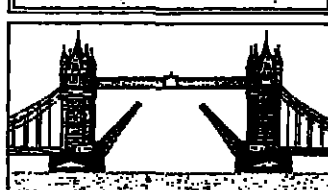
Western United, now known as Vestey Group, is the next tier up the corporate chain after Union, and owns the Blue Star shipping operation, some farms in Brazil and Venezuela and other healthy assets. Sir John Collins, brought in from Shell, has talked of a float by the end of the century.

The losers are the unsecured creditors and, possibly, the 1,500 staff employed by Dewhurst if the chain is broken up or switched to another use. Union is the latest in a long line of receiverships where the banks would appear to have acted in their shareholders' interests but not in anyone else's.

Bank erosion at the Midland

KEITH WHITSON, Midland Bank's chief executive, did not win himself any popularity points when he announced the bank's latest round of job cuts yesterday. The juxtaposition of healthy profits and wholesale redundancies is always a mite tricky to explain to the workforce. The contrast between Mid-

PENNINGTON



land's record performance earlier this month and the deep cuts Mr Whitson now intends to inflict on staff numbers is extreme. But neither the banking unions nor Midland's employees can really be surprised at this latest efficiency drive. The real culprit in the affair is technology. One of the main casualties in the reorganisation is the layer of area managers. From now on area managers will have to get their hands dirty and manage a branch as well as keep an eye on a platoon of other branches.

Cutting out management layers is not a new phenomenon in British industry. Manufacturers and even utility companies have been doing it for years and often been rewarded with a dramatic

impact on their bottom line. Modern technology allows bank head offices to have instant on-line access to all their branches and managers. Directors can despatch orders on credit quality and customer service down the wire rather than rely on an intermediate layer of management to relay their messages.

The other main casualty of the cuts, the business banking centres, are in a similar situation. The quality of data from Midland's ever-improving systems means that small business bankers no longer have to operate as a discrete unit away from the rest of a branch's business. While there is still a need for specialist business centres in cities, the process of winning and advising customers should be helped if bankers can discuss business and personal needs with a customer simultaneously.

The inevitability of the cut-backs does not make it any easier for 1,700 Midland staff to accept they are surplus to requirements. By the end of the year, the bank will barely have 40,000 staff when it once employed almost 70,000. But at least customers

should have the right to demand that some of the savings come to them rather than filling shareholders' pockets.

Falling out over nuclear

AGAINST the odds, the Slovak Government has thrown a spoke in the wheels of the industrial and financial juggernaut that was trying to overhaul the country's nuclear industry. Hard pounding from non-nuclear Austria had shown no signs of halting the advance of the alliance between the management of the EBRD and Electricité de France, the French state-owned power utility.

The alliance hoped to secure approval from EBRD directors next Monday for the bank's DM412.5 million contribution towards Mochovce nuclear power project in Slovakia, which would retrofit a Soviet-designed nuclear plant. Bratislava's sudden demand for a postponement means that governments will be able to take another look. The prime shortcoming of the

EBRD is its enthusiasm for the nuclear option, and the argument that four Soviet pressurised water reactors could, with western technology, be upgraded as the lowest-cost option. But as Chernobyl showed, perceptions of best interests and safety differ. It may be useful for the West's order-starved nuclear industry to find work making Soviet plant safer, but it cannot be acceptable to encourage countries in Eastern and Central Europe to accept lower nuclear standards than our own. Germany decided not to retrofit similar plant to Mochovce in eastern Germany on the grounds that it would have been hugely uneconomic. So why not consider non-nuclear options and energy-saving programmes for Slovakia before awarding EBRD a lucrative DM1 billion construction contract for Mochovce?

Forward thinking

AS Downing Street, Threadneedle Street and Gt George Street ponder who should be deputy governor of the Bank of England, they might usefully cut the list of candidates by imposing one condition. The next incumbent, whether internal or external, should have good personal experience of dealing in derivatives. Only when that happens will a generation gap in banking and regulation be closed.

NFC finds new chief executive to guide recovery

By NEIL BENNETT

NFC, the troubled freight and removals group, has appointed a new chief executive after a four-month search. Gerry Murphy, the former chief executive of Greencore, the Irish foods group, will join at the beginning of June to start turning the company round.

Meanwhile, the group has warned its investors that it will take more heavy restructuring provisions after a further slump in its profits in the three months to January 22. It has also decided to abandon quarterly reporting from next year and produce figures only twice a year.

Mr Murphy, 39, was chosen as the new chief executive after an exhaustive search by Sir Christopher Bland, who became group chairman in November. In all, Sir Christopher interviewed more than 20 candidates and turned down all internal nominations for the job, before finding Mr Murphy, who prior to taking charge at Greencore worked for Grand Metropolitan.

Sir Christopher said yesterday: "He is an extremely good chief executive with an excellent track record. He has

worked for a demanding chairman and we think we can work together."

He added that Mr Murphy's lack of experience of the freight business was not a disadvantage. "This is a straightforward business that responds to straightforward business disciplines, and Gerry comes from a business where he has achieved results."

Sir Christopher said the group was still engaged in a legal battle with Peter Sherlock, the previous chief executive who is suing NFC for a redundancy pay-off. But Sir Christopher said he hoped to settle the issue soon, and did not expect it to end in court.

Sir Christopher was unrepentant about his decision to abandon quarterly reporting. "It will save us £300,000 a year, money I am quite happy to trouser when we are looking at every opportunity to cut costs. Shareholders do not gain much from the figures. The costs outweigh the benefits."

Along with news of the appointment, NFC published first-quarter figures which

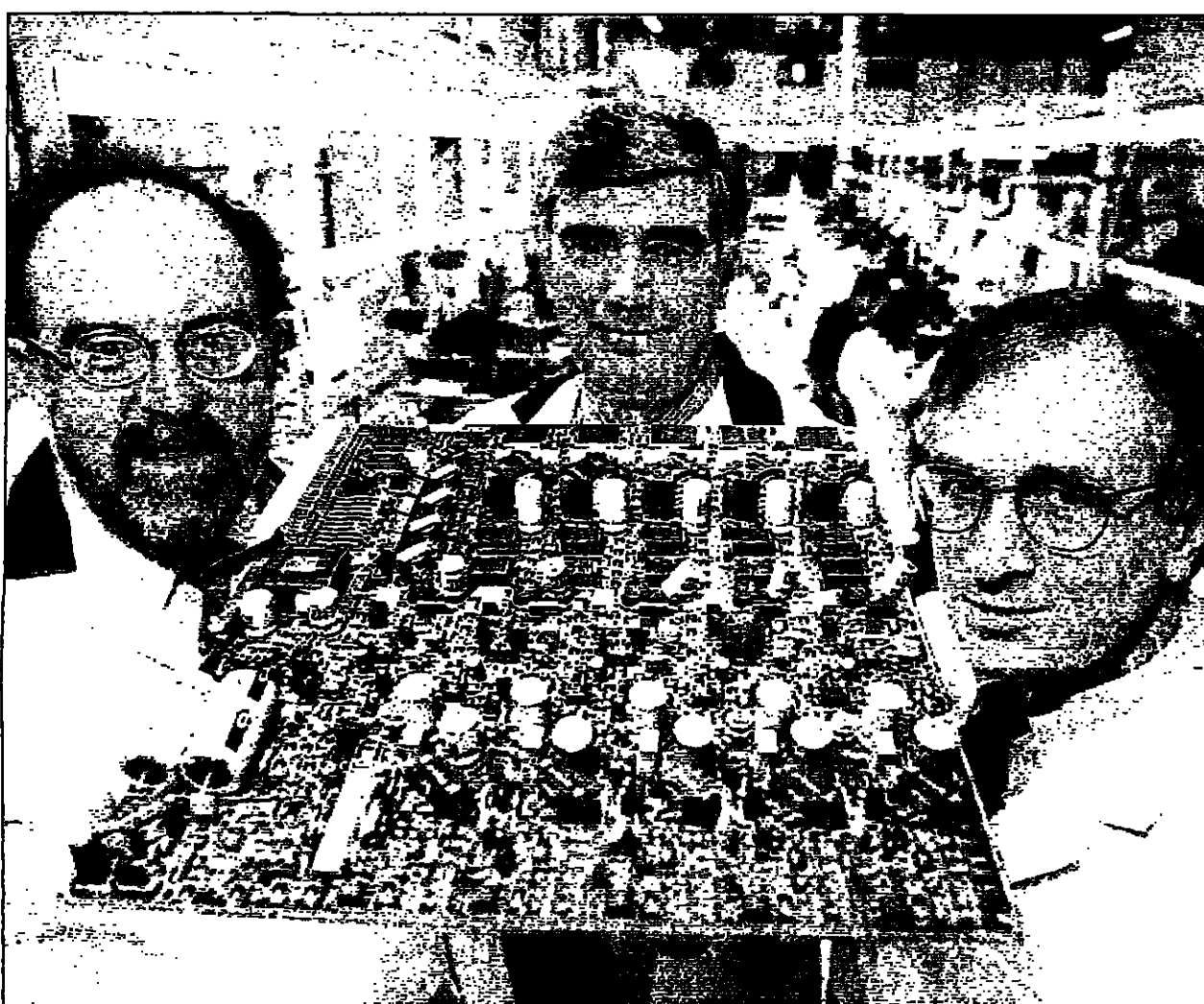
showed a 30 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £29.4 million despite a 7 per cent rise in sales. All the group's divisions either made losses or suffered a fall in profits. The group blamed pressure on its margins on the distribution contracts it is renewing with large retailers. The quarterly dividend is being held at 1.4p, but from next year NFC will only pay two dividends a year.

Profit at the main British transport division, which owns Exel, fell 20 per cent in the quarter to £13.3 million. The European operations made a loss of £1.9 million, dragged down by the Frigoscandia business in Germany. The moving services division, which owns Pickfords, slumped to a profit of only £200,000, down £1.2 million, despite generating sales of £168 million.

NFC said it will make additional provisions for redundancies, site disposals and the withdrawal from unprofitable contracts when it reports its interim figures in three months' time.

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Telspec at double in maiden year



Profits at Telspec, the manufacturer of advanced telecommunications equipment, rose to £6.56 million before tax in 1994, the company's first full year on the stock market, from £3.41 million previously. Pictured, from left, are Frank Hackett-Jones, chairman, Garth Riley, chief executive, and Russell Woolley, finance director, at their plant in Kent

Matthews record may bring new bids

By MARTIN BARROW

RECORD profits at Bernard Matthews, the poultry and meat processing company, could pave the way for further acquisitions. Despite spending £13.67 million on two deals last year, the company's balance sheet remained strong, with gearing of just 20 per cent.

Bernard Matthews, chairman, said: "We are well placed to take advantage of any further opportunities that may arise." In the year to January 1 the company increased profits to £18.6 million before tax from £11.26 million. There was a £5.9 million contribution from newly acquired companies, including Turner's Turkeys, purchased in January 1994. Group turnover advanced to £283.53 million from £194.83 million, with acquisitions accounting for £62.78 million.

Heavy discounting of over-ready turkeys by retailers at Christmas resulted in a significant increase in consumption, but had no adverse impact on Bernard Matthews's selling prices.

During the year, sales within the core added value turkey business in Britain increased by 10 per cent. Profitability declined in the red meats division, reflecting the downward trend in red meat consumption, but the company still expects to begin distributing a range of lamb products supplied by Advanced Foods, an acquisition in New Zealand in 1994.

There is a final dividend of 1.82p, due May 5, making a total of 3.14p for the year (2.5p), payable from earnings of 10.32p a share (6.27p).

Tempus, page 24

THE TIMES Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*, explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business.

Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes, *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

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Tropical storm fails to halt Geest

By COLIN NARBROUGH

TROPICAL storm Debbie and the subsequent drought that devastated the Windward Islands banana plantations failed to stop Geest, the fresh produce and food group, from bouncing back to £2.8 million pre-tax profits last year from a £5.4 million loss.

It forecast that first-half earnings this year will be lower than its strong first half last year, when it posted a record pre-tax profit of £15.1 million. The 1994 dividend was unchanged at 8.1p.

The devastation caused by Debbie in September to the banana crop of the islands of St Lucia and Dominica impacted immediately on Geest's second half results and continues to affect them this year. Although Geest expects its Windward banana supplies to recover in the second half, it said it was planning its future growth away from the volatile and politically hand-tied banana market.

Geest said that future earnings growth would be focused on its chilled prepared foods division. David Sugden, chief executive, denied Geest was pulling back from bananas, and said the company was simply looking for markets with more potential to expand. He said Geest planned to spend £25-30 million a year to grow the firm, the bulk of which would go into prepared foods, which last year showed a 44 per cent increase in operating profit to £7.5 million, compared with £1 million in 1989. Overall group turnover last year climbed £40 million to £676 million.

Merger and low margins slow Weir

By PHILIP PANGALOS

INTENSE competition and the one-off costs of reorganising its pumps business took a toll on Weir Group, as the Glasgow pumps and engineering company suffered an 18.6 per cent slide in profits.

Weir incurred £7.8 million of exceptional provisions to cover the costs of merging EnviroTech Pumpsystems, the American specialist pumps group bought for £135 million last September, with its existing businesses. This helped to drag Weir's pre-tax profits down to £30.6 million in the year to December 31, compared with £37.5 million in the previous year.

EnviroTech contributed £3.2 million to operating profits.

The reorganisation of the group's pump activities is expected to save about £5 million a year. Weir, which employs about 8,200 people, expects net job losses from the restructuring to amount to about 320, with some people employed elsewhere in the group.

Turnover, boosted by the EnviroTech acquisition, rose to £475.5 million (£449 million). New orders booked in 1994 stood at £462 million (£470 million in 1993), but the company said 1994 finished strongly with orders of £166 million in the last quarter. Competition

dragged down margins at the group's engineering products.

Lord Weir, chairman, said: "There is plenty of work around in most of our markets, especially in power. The difficulty is it's a pretty competitive situation and we're not inclined to push for turnover for its own sake. It's not easy to get work at the margins we want."

There is a final dividend of 4.9p (4.57p), payable on June 15, giving 6.9p (6.5p) for the year, from earnings of 13p (16.8p) a share. Weir shares fell 14p to 226p.

Tempus, page 24

Battered Blenheim forsakes takeovers

By MARTIN WALLER

BLENHIM, the exhibitions organiser known in the past for its explosive growth, is turning away from acquisitions after what Neville Buch, the chairman, described as "the most challenging year in the group's history."

Blenheim was announcing 1994 figures that were significantly lower than 1993 after a heavier than expected market downturn in France and re-

structuring costs. Pre-tax profits fell from £45.2 million to £30.3 million after £4 million of one-off expenses.

The market had been primed for the fall by a profits warning in January, and the shares gained 23p to 197p as investors assumed the bad news was finally out of the way. They plunged from well above £2 after January's warning, the third in recent years.

Blenheim is holding its final dividend at 6.85p to make a total up from 10.25p to 10.35p, paid on earnings down from 29.4p to 15.0p. A total of 70 jobs have gone out of a workforce of 860, since the start of 1995 and Staffan Svenby, managing director, said it was probable that more would go this year. Mr Buch added: "With the emphasis on organic development, growth by acquisition is not expected to form a significant part of our strategy during 1995 as in past years."



Buch: "challenging year"

Tempus, page 24

Lloyds Bank Credit Card Rates

With effect from 31 March 1995 the following rates of interest will apply:

	Monthly Rate	APR
Lloyds Bank Access	1.57%	22.0%*
Lloyds Bank Gold Card	1.15%	16.5%**

* Typical APR based on a limit of £1,000 including annual fee.

** Typical APR based on a limit of £2,500 including annual fee.



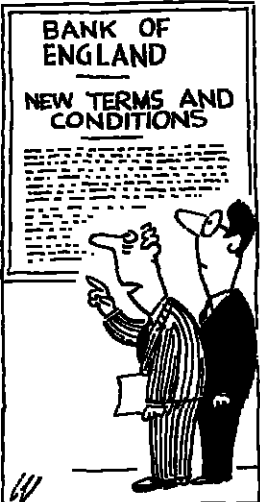
THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Little jobs for the boys

LEONA HELMSLEY, the New York hotel billionaire's daughter, known as the Queen of Mean, will for ever and a day be remembered as the one who dismissively said "only the little people pay taxes". Similarly, Ed Wallis of PowerGen will be remembered in the City as the man who told a Commons inquiry that he earns £36,000 on top of his £300,000 salary for three "little jobs" requiring just four days' work a year. Wallis' pocket-money looks to be nice work if you can get it, though several non-executive directors insist they really have to work hard. The Royal Bank of Scotland has 19 directors on its board, of whom 11 are non-execs. They collect a basic £10,000. But at least they are required to attend 18 meetings a year. The Telegraph tops the table for appointments of non-execs with 17 out of a board of 23. However, it remains their secret what they are paid and what hours they serve. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, holds only two non-exec posts — Lloyds Bank and Zeneca. Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke Group used to hold the British record for being on the board of 212 companies, essentially all within Ladbroke. He has since slimmed down to six. Meanwhile, Rudolph Agnew, formerly of Consolidated Gold Fields, is non-exec chairman of five companies and a non-exec director of another three and says the secret of not getting your office diary muddled is to have a genius of a secretary. Perhaps, he will most be remembered for saying: "It is not a requirement of the Companies Act to have intelligence to be a director."



"No, nothing about sex"

Up sticks

THOSE looking for a good return on their art investments may be cheered by the results of today's sale at Christie's of no less than 14 paintings by L.S. Lowry. Collected by a clergyman — the late Rev Geoffrey Bennett — they are likely to show compound interest growth rates of 15 to 17 per cent. It may encourage pension funds to follow British Rail's example of several years ago of investing in art. However, they would have to have a keen eye to spot contemporary artists early. Bennett bought his first Lowry for just £5 in 1934 — *The Organ Grinder* — expected to make £30,000 plus but had to pay £50 for *Punch and Judy* in 1948, which should fetch a cool £80,000.

Funny money

LLOYDS BANK made sure one of its customers can clear his overdraft on Tuesday night when it named Terry Johnson as the first Lloyds Private Banking Playwright of the Year. The author of *Dead Funny*, a play about a group of Benny Hill fans on the day he died, said as he received his £25,000 cheque his contact with the event's sponsor was usually a letter telling him he was overdrawn and charging him for the privilege of receiving it.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH

Free-floaters challenge need for currency fix

Currency turmoil sparks same debate in Europe and Latin America

It has become a new year ritual for Euro-enthusiasts to declare that their dream of economic and monetary union is intact.

This year being no exception, a few blithe words about being prepared for EMU in 1997 have been enough to prod the roguish traders of the foreign-exchange markets into action. The gulf between Europe's hard and soft currencies has opened again.

A cynic might suggest that, by definition, forex dealers are opposed to the single currency because it puts them out of a job. Cavalier they may be, but they have displayed a high degree of rationality in the recent history of the exchange-rate mechanism.

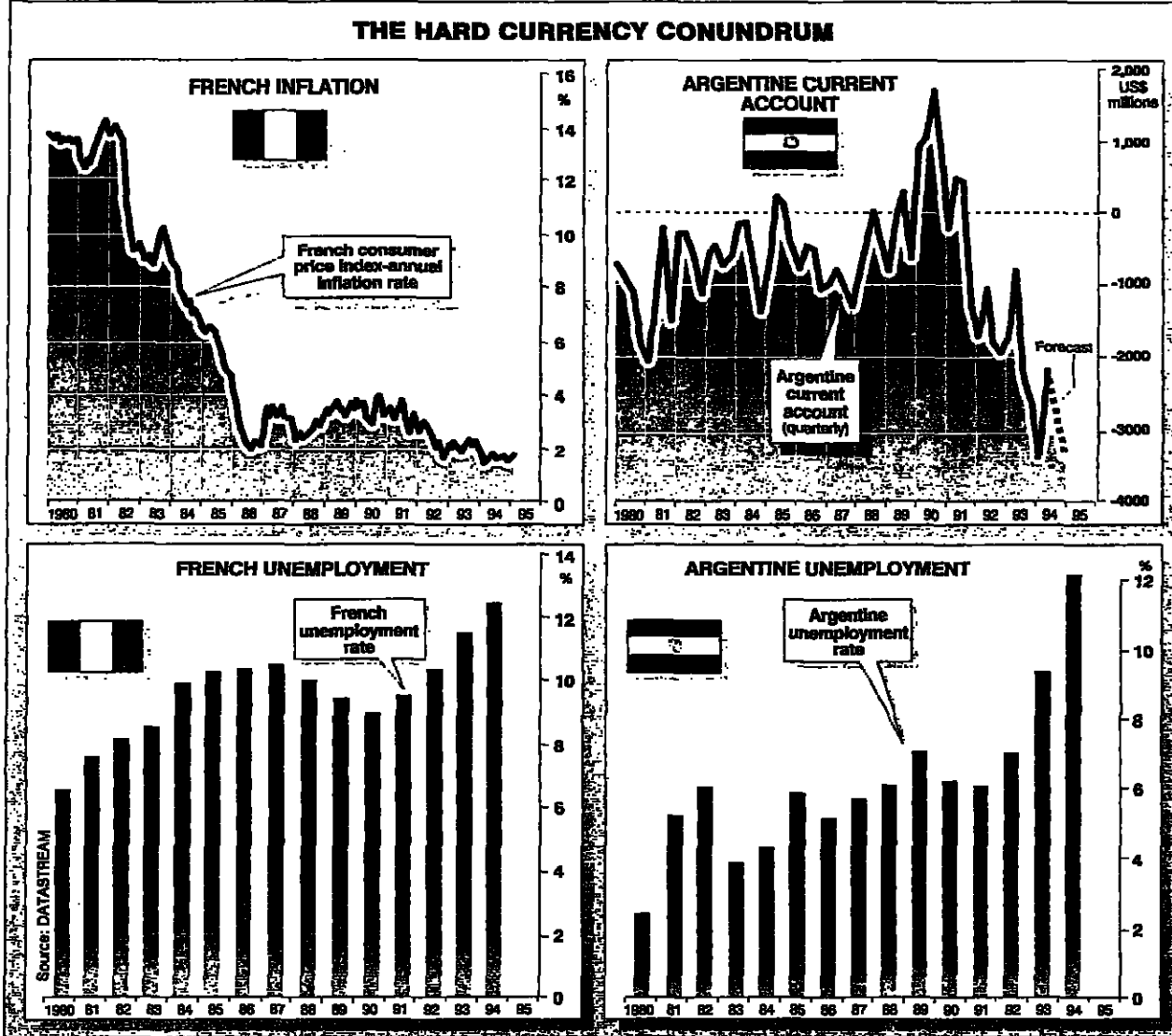
Britain was saddled with a hopelessly overtight monetary policy while in the ERM, which deepened and prolonged the recession. France, a stubborn survivor of two major attacks against the franc in as many years, has a horrendous budget deficit, unemployment above 12 per cent, and the awesome prospect of rising German interest rates in the months ahead.

France is facing its harshest test yet, whatever the outcome of presidential elections at the end of next month. If Edouard Balladur wins, the franc policy may remain intact, but there are real doubts whether the French can stand the pain and whether the markets will let them.

Monetary policy will get even tighter as French rates follow Germany's. There is also a potential double-whammy on the fiscal side. The budget deficit needs to be brought down. But there also needs to be structural reform of business taxation, transferring it from unemployment-creating social security charges to other more visible taxes.

Victory for Jacques Chirac may imply relative neglect of France's deficit problem and concentration on cutting unemployment, although it is doubtful whether the French establishment and the independent Bank of France would go so far. If M Chirac were to address the pain of France's domestic economy, he might well compromise France's fitness to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria.

That would decisively tip the balance against the single currency at least for this century. For now, the French establishment continues to argue that the latest attack on currencies out of the core mark



club strengthens, not weakens, the argument for a single currency. In this era of monetary orthodoxy, currency turbulence only increases the propensity of some to opt for "rules" rather than discretion in making policy. Far from considering devaluation to ease its economic woes, France seems prepared to go on piling discipline on discipline.

But this masochistic phenomenon is not exclusively European. Argentina is, in many ways, the France of Latin America. Like France, it has achieved dramatic cuts in inflation by pegging to a hard currency and thereby living with an overvalued exchange rate. Like France it has been regarded as the darling of its region in terms of exchange-rate orthodoxy. And, like France, its credibility remains woefully incomplete.

Argentina pegged the peso to the dollar in 1990 and backed it with the discipline of a currency board. Inflation fell from more than 1,000 per cent to less than 4 per cent. GDP grew by 44 per cent in four years, compared with 11 per cent in Mexico. Argentina's current account deficit has been about half of Mexico's, which was running at nearly 8 per cent of GDP.

On the face of it, this suggests that fixing currencies delivers all-round economic health. Yet Argentina is vulnerable. Its current account is deteriorating, courtesy of an

overvalued currency, and, like Mexico, it has been far too dependent on foreign capital. Since the Mexican crisis, billions of dollars have flooded out. Under Argentina's convertibility system, the monetary base shrinks, interest rates rise and the people are asked to swallow another period of austerity.

After the Mexican crisis, Argentinean officials went to Washington and offered "full dollarisation" of the economy if that was the price for preventing foreign capital gushing away. This would effectively mean that the dollar would replace the peso.

Like France, Argentina will not consider devaluation. Like France, Argentina has a jobless rate of 12 per cent plus. In Latin America, as in Europe, the latest currency turmoil has focused attention on the old debate between free-floating and fixed exchange rates.

Some envisage a world in which a few large trading blocs with single currencies compete with each other. Europe is clearly seen as a candidate, an extended American free-trade area as NAFTA spreads south is another. But the conditions are onerous.

□ An almost perfect degree of economic convergence, including Maastricht-type criteria on deficits, debt, inflation, unemployment levels and labour market structures.

□ The blocs would have to choose the right host currency. Everyone is familiar with the ERM's choice of the mark as anchor when the "asymmetric shock" of unification hit a recession-bound Europe.

□ Currencies have to enter a single unit at the right rate. Britain's entry into the ERM at DM2.95 is the best known salutary lesson.

□ A single currency is contingent on political union because of the need for a central budgetary authority that can authorise transfers to poorer regions of the bloc that cannot use the exchange rate to get out of trouble.

□ The blocs would preferably have to be open to trade with other blocs. Inward-looking trade areas armed with protectionist trade barriers could significantly dampen the volume of world trade.

No one realistically believes that all these conditions can be met for generations. But strong trends towards trade integration and full capital mobility mean that there can be no halfway house between single currency areas and free-floating. Different geographic/trading areas currently have an unsustainable patchwork of exchange-rate regimes and the mish-mash is getting ever more messy.

Argentina will staunchly battle on with its fix with the dollar. But Brazil has already shown — by allowing staged devaluations and talking

about a wide band — that it will emulate Chile, the alternative model in Latin America. Chile was forced to abandon its peg to the dollar in the early 1980s and now floats in a wide band. Chile has done well and has found itself recently insulated from the recent vagaries of world capital flows.

In Europe, France for now remains wedded to the franc. But there are other models that French industry must envy with a passion. Britain has enjoyed a strong export-led recovery with low inflation, courtesy of its involuntary depreciation. It shows no sign of wanting to rejoin the ERM. Italy, for all its problems, has also done well out of leaving the mechanism.

Those countries that have devalued are seen as economic weaklings, an orthodox view based on the belief that no devaluation leads to lasting competitive gains because the loss of discipline leads to higher prices. But there now seem to be models of well managed devaluations.

The charge towards fixed currencies is being challenged everywhere by the existence of successful free-floaters. Countries such as France and Argentina are increasingly seen as others enjoying the fruits of "competitive devaluations", which only compounds the pain of strong currency policies. The balance is tipping against them.

Why Camelot failed to come up to scratch

Jon Ashworth asks whether technology could end the lottery group's lucky run

Camelot has had such a smooth ride so far that it seemed almost inevitable that something would go wrong. The irony with the great scratch card debacle — a short-lived hiccup, as it turns out — is that the launch of instant games in Britain should have been almost an afterthought next to the complexities of launching the weekly on-line game.

After beating Richard Branson and others to win the National Lottery licence last May, Camelot was left with barely six months in which to put an increasingly complicated network of retailers and computer terminals in place. There was no great rush to launch phase two — the instant games, which are only expected to make up between 20 and 30 per cent of total lottery sales — and, as such, there should have been no embarrassing failure.

Mercifully for Camelot, problems with the software used for processing the instant games proved to be short-lived. An unspecified fault in the software system has been corrected and the system is said to be 100 per cent back on stream. What will be more difficult to correct is the highly public revelation that Camelot, riding on the technical know-how of GTECH, its US lottery partner, is not infallible after all. The public must have total confidence in the National Lottery system, and Tuesday's events may prove to be a lingering thorn in Camelot's side. Soon after instant games went on sale, the computer system showed signs of overloading. Transactions that should have taken a couple of seconds to complete were taking up to 30 seconds — an unacceptable delay, given the volume of business passing through the National Lottery computer network. The painful decision was taken to put sales on hold until the problem could be identified.

The need to counter the threat of fraudulent claims makes the scratch card network more complicated than appears to be the case. About 20,000 shops and outlets are wired up to sell instant games, and each consignment of cards has to be barcoded for use by individual retailers before they leave the warehouse. A shopkeeper in Watford is unable to sell tickets destined for a garage in Leeds. On delivery, the retailer scans a barcode on the packet through a "black box" that alerts the factory that the consignment has gone to the right place. He scans it again to "activate" the pack, alerting the central computer that a certain batch of tickets are now in play.

Winning tickets must be swiped through again for verification before any prize money changes hands. The system is complicated, but the end-product — the scanning unit — is deliberately simple. Camelot's on-line lottery terminals come with a scratch card unit attached. About 5,000 additional shops have been fitted to sell instant games only, and the number could rise to 12,000 by the time the full National Lottery network of up to 35,000 retail outlets is in place by the end of next year.

The glitch comes at a sensitive time for Camelot. Ticket sales have topped £1 billion in the first 18 weeks — well ahead of expectations — raising £250 million for good causes and £450 million in prizes. Early estimates were proved wrong when £50,000 worth of tickets were sold in the first 12 minutes. The National Lottery's unforeseen success has led to even more questions about whether Camelot is being paid too much for its services. Camelot will earn an average of 5 per cent of the licence to cover its costs, leaving an anticipated profit of less than 1 per cent to be split between the members of the consortium. As a clue to the start-up costs involved, Camelot has funded £125 million at its disposal. Camelot was doing its best to play down the damage yesterday.

saying the systems failure had had no impact on sales of tickets for the main money-spinner: the televised weekly game. A spokesman said: "The whole incident was obviously regrettable, but it demonstrates that we are human."

It has, however, been obliged to take out advertisements in the national and regional press, explaining what went wrong. Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, is anxious that players and prize winners should be reassured. He said: "I am most concerned that players are kept fully informed and their interests are protected."

All being well, the scratch card problem will fade into memory as lottery sales power ahead. The odds of winning an instant prize are between 1-in-4 and 1-in-7, compared with 1-in-54 odds for the televised game.

The level of instant prizes has been deliberately capped to avoid clashing with the weekly on-line game, and to that extent the phase two hitch is not as big a deal as it might appear to be. The nightmare scenario for Camelot will unfold if the system starts to crash on a regular basis. That is when the problems would really begin.

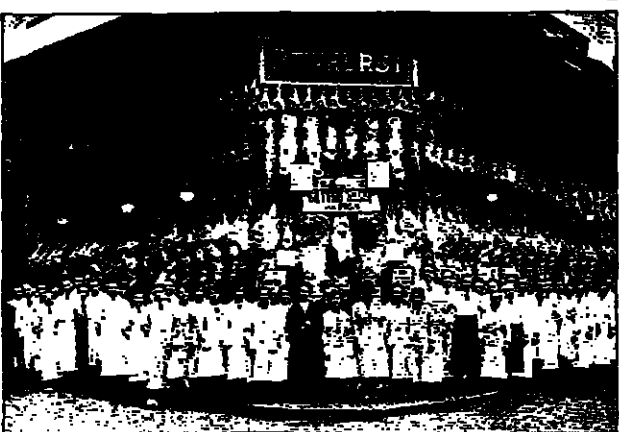
Ross Tieman tells the tale of four generations

Rise and fall of the Vestey empire

In just four generations, the Vestey family built a £1.4 billion fortune and a business empire that owned a territory the size of Europe. The appointment of administrators to Union International yesterday afternoon writes the closing chapter to one of the most extraordinary commercial stories of the 20th Century. Union International is best known for its chain of Dewhurst butchers shops. But these were simply the high street outlets of a supply chain that once stretched to the foothills of the Andes and the shadows of the Great Wall of China.

The Vestey story began in Liverpool with two brothers, William, born in 1859, and Edmund, seven years his junior. The sons of a prosperous provisions broker, they were among the first to recognise the potential of refrigeration, and their ability to satisfy the appetites of Britain's industrial workers, and their own desire to grow rich.

Meat was a scarce commodity in Britain in the early years of this century. In Argentina, China and Australia, which were big exporters of hides, feathers and wool, meat was plentiful, but, as a perishable product, unsaleable. The



Dewhurst staff outside the Smithfield butchers in 1923

Vestey's genius was to build a chain of port-side coldstores in Russia, China, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. Using refrigerated ships, they could then move meat from the Outback and the Pampas to the high streets of Britain.

In time, astute business sense and hard work gave them control over the entire food chain, from ranch to slaughterhouse and packing plant through shipping line and insurer, to wholesaler and the high street butcher.

Vertical integration was quickly exploited to avoid tax. The Vesteyes could simply allo-

cate profits where they wished to maximise their personal gain. The proceeds were channelled through the celebrated Paris Trust, established in 1919. The trust made the brothers, and their heirs, the richest family in Britain after the house of Windsor. For 60 years, the Inland Revenue tried unsuccessfully to raid the tax shelter. A celebrated legal battle in the early 1980s ended in defeat for the tax man. Yet according to *The Rise and Fall of the House of Vestey*, by Philip Knightley, Dewhurst paid just £215 in tax during one five-year period in which it

made profits of £8.8 million. The brother's tradition of hard work and parsimony was maintained by Edmund's son, Ronald, when he took charge in 1954. But the third generation, Lord Vestey and his younger brother Mark, learned to enjoy their wealth. Lord Vestey's country house, Stowell Park in Gloucestershire, stands in 5,000 acres. During the last 20 years, rising competition from supermarkets and changing lifestyles have undermined the foundations of the family's money machine.

Four years ago, Tim Vestey, then just 30, became chief executive at Union International. Within months, he had to call a meeting of bankers to explain that the company was heading to "breach" its covenants. A recovery plan, including a £40 million injection by the family and the appointment of an outsider to run the company, was drawn up. But the problems proved too great. Administrators from Ernst & Young hope to sell it as a going concern. The Vesteyes may well have enough money sailed away in family trusts to preserve their lifestyle. But the ranch to high-street empire built by William and Edmund is no more.

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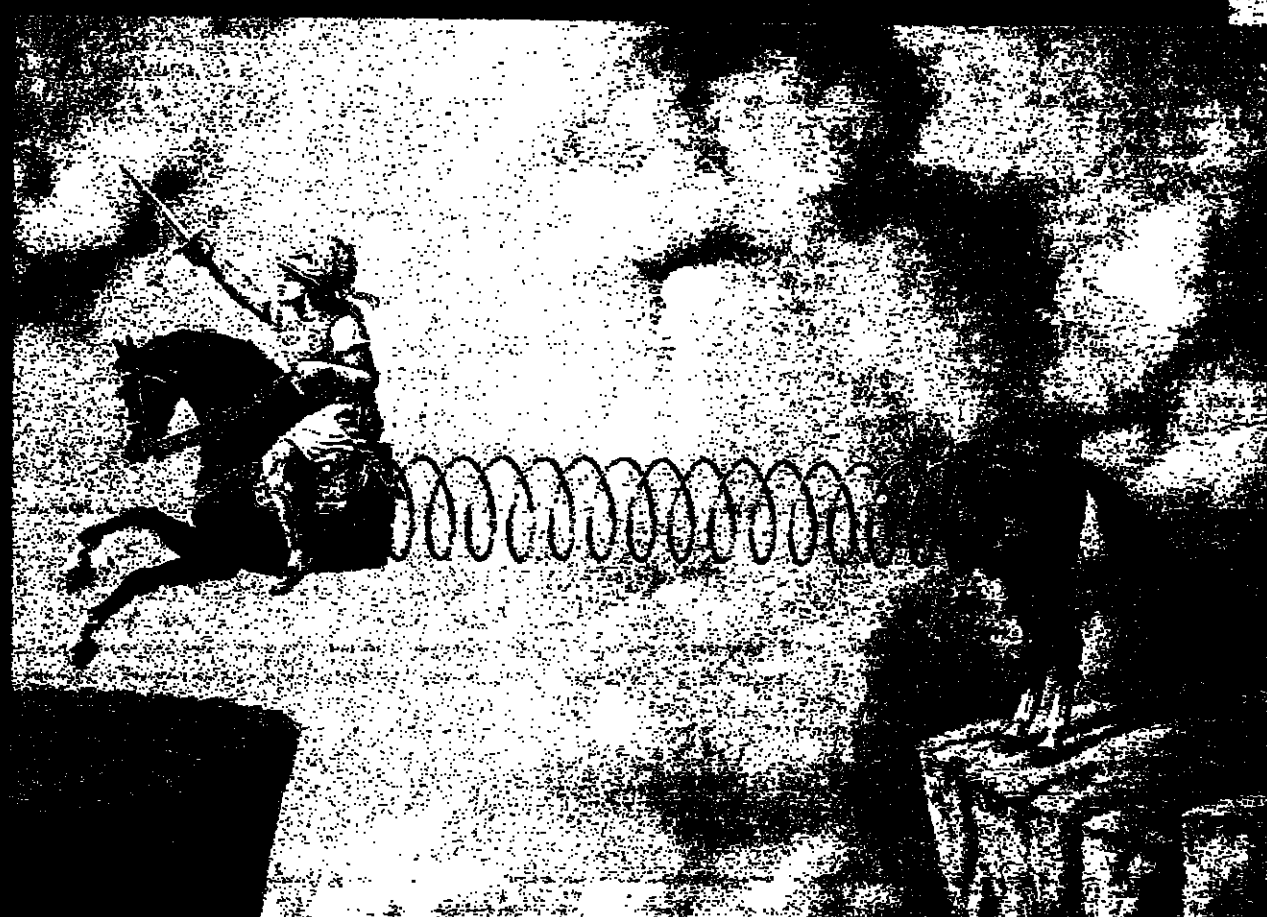
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U of Miami 100 Yrs	30.22	30.22	0
U of Michigan	29.92	29.92	0
U of New York	29.82	29.82	0
U of Texas	29.72	29.72	0
U of Wisconsin	29.62	29.62	0
U of California	29.52	29.52	0
U of Illinois	29.42	29.42	0
U of Pennsylvania	29.32	29.32	0
U of Maryland	29.22	29.22	0
U of North Carolina	29.12	29.12	0
U of South Carolina	29.02	29.02	0
U of Virginia	28.92	28.92	0
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U of Alaska	27.92	27.92	0
U of Hawaii	27.82	27.82	0
U of Puerto Rico	27.72	27.72	0
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U of Marshall Islands	27.22	27.22	0
U of Palau	27.12	27.12	0
U of Tokelau	27.02	27.02	0
U of Niue	26.92	26.92	0
U of Cook Islands	26.82	26.82	0
U of Tonga	26.72	26.72	0
U of Samoa	26.62	26.62	0
U of Kiribati	26.52	26.52	0
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U of Vanuatu	26.32	26.32	0
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U of Thailand	21.82	21.82	0
U of Malaysia	21.72	21.72	0
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U of Philippines	21.32	21.32	0
U of Vietnam	21.22	21.22	0
U of Laos	21.12	21.12	0

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AVERAGE?

WE WANT YOU TO SUCCEED



Richard Gledhill sees a role for his profession in a new share market

We can keep AIM on target

The Stock Exchange has now issued rules for the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), the new public market meant for small, young and growing companies to raise capital and widen their spread of shareholders.

It is distinguished from the Stock Exchange Official List in that there are no requirements of a minimum trading record nor for a minimum level of shares in public hands. Most capital is expected to be raised through the retail market, although smaller-company investment institutions are also raising capital for dedicated AIM funds.

The new market is likely to attract growing companies seeking capital to expand and will offer greater visibility than Rule 4.2 trading. To gain AIM entry, companies must issue a prospectus in accordance with the Public Offer of Securities (POS) Regulations, 1995. The directors will take responsibility for it. The exchange will not examine it.

Although companies must ensure a regular flow of information to the market, including publication of annual accounts and unaudited interim accounts, regulation is the minimum consistent with an informed market. So, related party transactions and transactions that exceed 10 per cent of profits or assets require announcement, but no circulars to shareholders. Reverse takeovers require shareholder approval, but no costly AIM readmission. Companies must appoint nomi-



Richard Gledhill welcomes the opportunities that AIM presents

nated advisers to guide directors on AIM obligations and to ensure compliance with rules. Advisers must undertake to be available to give continuing advice. Companies must also appoint nominated brokers, who must continue to provide information to the market after the company's admission.

The rules and procedures are designed to make the AIM a low-cost way to raise capital and establish a market in a company's shares. On the surface, they seem to be a reasonable balance between regula-

tion and cost, but there may be a sting in the tail, at least in terms of the cost of AIM admission. Where a nominated adviser is a "reasonable person" under POS regulations in respect of an AIM admission document, he may be required to assume a role that involves responsibilities to investors. As the exchange points out, the adviser's role is then likely to equate to a sponsor's under listing rules.

The statement has potentially far-reaching implications for the cost of AIM admission and for

those wishing to be a nominated adviser, for a sponsor has obligations to the Stock Exchange requiring significant due diligence. A sponsor must satisfy itself that the exchange is aware of all matters that should be taken into account in considering the suitability of a company's shares and must confirm that it has had confirmation from the company that its directors have appropriate procedures to enable them to assess its financial position and prospects.

Further, an AIM admission document requires the directors to state that the working capital available is enough for its present needs. If he is viewed in the same light as a sponsor, it is hard to see a nominated adviser being prepared to associate his name with a document unless he has carried out a similar level of due diligence.

While these considerations may increase the cost of AIM admission, as against the existing 4.2 market, it will still be much cheaper than listing or USM admission.

We welcome this initiative and believe the accountancy profession can play a major role in combining performance of due diligence with acting as nominated adviser in a way that is cost-effective for companies and helps to give confidence to investors in what is acknowledged as a higher-risk market.

The author is corporate finance head, Price Waterhouse, London

Taking stings out of the tail

AS AN aggressive Arthur Andersen partner in Chicago once put it to me: "If you lay down with dogs, you're gonna get fleas." He was referring, in his blunt Midwest way, to audit clients. And with litigation still cutting a perceived swathe through the profession, you could understand what he was getting at.

Taking on a client who is possibly going to turn out to be dodgy has several stings in the tail. They can go belly up, which does little for the firm's reputation for business advice. They can prove to be run by people whose business ethics are at their heart non-existent. In the worst cases they can turn out to be shells to facilitate money laundering.

Looking at it purely from the audit firm's point of view, all those eventualities mean not only embarrassment at the time of the dénouement but also, given the nature of the people concerned, a serious likelihood of tenacious litigation.

Most firms of any size now have systems to evaluate clients. The systems vary in sophistication and none of them will get the answer right every time. This is why the latest guidance from the auditing committee of the English ICA is useful. *Audit Client Acceptance and Retention* could be characterised as a list of motherhood statements, but its use is in reminding people, rather than telling them something new.

In a sense, no audit firm would ever take on a duff client if it



ROBERT BRUCE

remembered all the warnings. But it is tempting, particularly to a smaller firm, to have a news-worthy and notable, if not yet notorious, client on the books. There is also the wider dilemma. All companies have to have an audit. Is there not a duty for the largest and most capable firms to take on a difficult client simply to keep a steady eye on the directors' activities? And what happens when a company goes bad and only the auditor can truly see what is changing? Should that firm not stick with the client and attempt to clear up the mess on shareholders' behalf, rather than simply dumping it as speedily as possible?

None of this is properly dealt with in the guidance. But in a

sense, if people followed the guidance then they shouldn't reach that point anyway. The problem is when a perfectly good client starts to metamorphose, when directors change and strategies alter. And that is where the guidance is useful in suggesting that some sort of formal exercise should occur each year if something important has changed. It suggests events like a sudden need for a consultancy exercise, a change in the nature of the business, in ownership or management and in the case of new revelations from the audit.

But the guidance also suggests that "formal consideration" is not required every year. It should be. First, because it provides the framework which will spot any potential disasters. Second, because second thoughts may be prompted that might have remained unexpressed. And third, because it honours the auditor's instinct and thought processes.

There is self-interest here as well. The anguish suffered by one partner I knew over the steady unfolding of fraudulent behaviour at his client was terrible. There was never enough evidence to nail the miscreant, and you knew that if anything became public the business, the shareholders' investment and the employees' jobs would be blown away. That is the real reason why guidance on how to deal with audit clients when they turn out to be dogs should always be only a starting point.

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1994/95					1994/95					1994/95					1994/95							
Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE			
11	Arco (A)	12	-1	42	219	172	Barclays Bank	178	-1	2.8	51	44	Arco (A)	50	-1	6.8	208	133	TV	187	-1	27.4
12	Arco (B)	12	-1	42	220	173	Barclays Bank	179	-1	2.8	52	45	Arco (B)	51	-1	6.8	209	134	TV	188	-1	27.4
13	Arco (C)	12	-1	42	221	174	Barclays Bank	180	-1	2.8	53	46	Arco (C)	52	-1	6.8	210	135	TV	189	-1	27.4
14	Arco (D)	12	-1	42	222	175	Barclays Bank	181	-1	2.8	54	47	Arco (D)	53	-1	6.8	211	136	TV	190	-1	27.4
15	Arco (E)	12	-1	42	223	176	Barclays Bank	182	-1	2.8	55	48	Arco (E)	54	-1	6.8	212	137	TV	191	-1	27.4
16	Arco (F)	12	-1	42	224	177	Barclays Bank	183	-1	2.8	56	49	Arco (F)	55	-1	6.8	213	138	TV	192	-1	27.4
17	Arco (G)	12	-1	42	225	178	Barclays Bank	184	-1	2.8	57	50	Arco (G)	56	-1	6.8	214	139	TV	193	-1	27.4
18	Arco (H)	12	-1	42	226	179	Barclays Bank	185	-1	2.8	58	51	Arco (H)	57	-1	6.8	215	140	TV	194	-1	27.4
19	Arco (I)	12	-1	42	227	180	Barclays Bank	186	-1	2.8	59	52	Arco (I)	58	-1	6.8	216	141	TV	195	-1	27.4
20	Arco (J)	12	-1	42	228	181	Barclays Bank	187	-1	2.8	60	53	Arco (J)	59	-1	6.8	217	142	TV	196	-1	27.4
21	Arco (K)	12	-1	42	229	182	Barclays Bank	188	-1	2.8	61	54	Arco (K)	60	-1	6.8	218	143	TV	197	-1	27.4
22	Arco (L)	12	-1	42	230	183	Barclays Bank	189	-1	2.8	62	55	Arco (L)	61	-1	6.8	219	144	TV	198	-1	27.4
23	Arco (M)	12	-1	42	231	184	Barclays Bank	190	-1	2.8	63	56	Arco (M)	62	-1	6.8	220	145	TV	199	-1	27.4
24	Arco (N)	12	-1	42	232	185	Barclays Bank	191	-1	2.8	64	57	Arco (N)	63	-1	6.8	221	146	TV	200	-1	27.4
25	Arco (O)	12	-1	42	233	186	Barclays Bank	192	-1	2.8	65	58	Arco (O)	64	-1	6.8	222	147	TV	201	-1	27.4
26	Arco (P)	12	-1	42	234	187	Barclays Bank	193	-1	2.8	66	59	Arco (P)	65	-1	6.8	223	148	TV	202	-1	27.4
27	Arco (Q)	12	-1	42	235	188	Barclays Bank	194	-1	2.8	67	60	Arco (Q)	66	-1	6.8	224	149	TV	203	-1	27.4
28	Arco (R)	12	-1	42	236	189	Barclays Bank	195	-1	2.8	68	61	Arco (R)	67	-1	6.8	225	150	TV	204	-1	27.4
29	Arco (S)	12	-1	42	237	190	Barclays Bank	196	-1	2.8	69	62	Arco (S)	68	-1	6.8	226	151	TV	205	-1	27.4
30	Arco (T)	12	-1	42	238	191	Barclays Bank	197	-1	2.8	70	63	Arco (T)	69	-1	6.8	227	152	TV	206	-1	27.4
31	Arco (U)	12	-1	42	239	192	Barclays Bank	198	-1	2.8	71	64	Arco (U)	70	-1	6.8	228	153	TV	207	-1	27.4

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

31	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	124	172	Barclays Bank	178	-1	2.8	51	44	Arco (A)	50	-1	6.8	208	133	TV	187	-1	27.4
32	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	125	173	Barclays Bank	179	-1	2.8	52	45	Arco (B)	51	-1	6.8	209	134	TV	188	-1	27.4
33	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	126	174	Barclays Bank	180	-1	2.8	53	46	Arco (C)	52	-1	6.8	210	135	TV	189	-1	27.4
34	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	127	175	Barclays Bank	181	-1	2.8	54	47	Arco (D)	53	-1	6.8	211	136	TV	190	-1	27.4
35	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	128	176	Barclays Bank	182	-1	2.8	55	48	Arco (E)	54	-1	6.8	212	137	TV	191	-1	27.4

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

48	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	129	177	Barclays Bank	183	-1	2.8	56	49	Arco (F)	55	-1	6.8	213	138	TV	192	-1	27.4
49	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	130	178	Barclays Bank	184	-1	2.8	57	50	Arco (G)	56	-1	6.8	214	139	TV	193	-1	27.4
50	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	131	179	Barclays Bank	185	-1	2.8	58	51	Arco (H)	57	-1	6.8	215	140	TV	194	-1	27.4
51	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	132	180	Barclays Bank	186	-1	2.8	59	52	Arco (I)	58	-1	6.8	216	141	TV	195	-1	27.4
52	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	133	181	Barclays Bank	187	-1	2.8	60	53	Arco (J)	59	-1	6.8	217	142	TV	196	-1	27.4

HEALTHCARE

169	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	134	182	Barclays Bank	188	-1	2.8	61	54	Arco (K)	60	-1	6.8	218	143	TV	197	-1	27.4
170	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	135	183	Barclays Bank	189	-1	2.8	62	55	Arco (L)	61	-1	6.8	219	144	TV	198	-1	27.4
171	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	136	184	Barclays Bank	190	-1	2.8	63	56	Arco (M)	62	-1	6.8	220	145	TV	199	-1	27.4
172	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	137	185	Barclays Bank	191	-1	2.8	64	57	Arco (N)	63	-1	6.8	221	146	TV	200	-1	27.4
173	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	138	186	Barclays Bank	192	-1	2.8	65	58	Arco (O)	64	-1	6.8	222	147	TV	201	-1	27.4

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

189	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	139	187	Barclays Bank	193	-1	2.8	66	59	Arco (P)	65	-1	6.8	223	148	TV	202	-1	27.4
190	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	140	188	Barclays Bank	194	-1	2.8	67	60	Arco (Q)	66	-1	6.8	224	149	TV	203	-1	27.4
191	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	141	189	Barclays Bank	195	-1	2.8	68	61	Arco (R)	67	-1	6.8	225	150	TV	204	-1	27.4
192	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	142	190	Barclays Bank	196	-1	2.8	69	62	Arco (S)	68	-1	6.8	226	151	TV	205	-1	27.4
193	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	143	191	Barclays Bank	197	-1	2.8	70	63	Arco (T)	69	-1	6.8	227	152	TV	206	-1	27.4

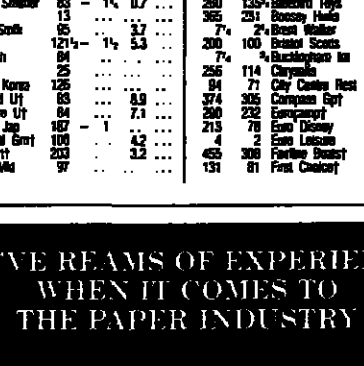
INSURANCE

199	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	144	192	Barclays Bank	198	-1	2.8	71	64	Arco (U)	70	-1	6.8	228	153	TV	207	-1	27.4
200	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	145	193	Barclays Bank	199	-1	2.8	72	65	Arco (V)	71	-1	6.8	229	154	TV	208	-1	27.4
201	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	146	194	Barclays Bank	200	-1	2.8	73	66	Arco (W)	72	-1	6.8	230	155	TV	209	-1	27.4
202	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	147	195	Barclays Bank	201	-1	2.8	74	67	Arco (X)	73	-1	6.8	231	156	TV	210	-1	27.4
203	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	148	196	Barclays Bank	202	-1	2.8	75	68	Arco (Y)	74	-1	6.8	232	157	TV	211	-1	27.4

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

260	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	149	197	Barclays Bank	203	-1	2.8	76	69	Arco (Z)	75	-1	6.8	233	158	TV	212	-1	27.4
261	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	150	198	Barclays Bank	204	-1	2.8	77	70	Arco (A)	76	-1	6.8	234	159	TV	213	-1	27.4
262	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	151	199	Barclays Bank	205	-1	2.8	78	71	Arco (B)	77	-1	6.8	235	160	TV	214	-1	27.4
263	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	152	200	Barclays Bank	206	-1	2.8	79	72	Arco (C)	78	-1	6.8	236	161	TV	215	-1	27.4
264	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	153	201	Barclays Bank	207	-1	2.8	80	73	Arco (D)	79	-1	6.8	237	162	TV	216	-1	27.4

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Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE	Low	Company	Price	+/-	% PE			
115	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	154	202	Barclays Bank	208	-1	2.8	81	74	Arco (E)	80	-1	6.8	238	163	TV	217	-1	27.4
116	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	155	203	Barclays Bank	209	-1	2.8	82	75	Arco (F)	81	-1	6.8	239	164	TV	218	-1	27.4
117	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	156	204	Barclays Bank	210	-1	2.8	83	76	Arco (G)	82	-1	6.8	240	165	TV	219	-1	27.4
118	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	157	205	Barclays Bank	211	-1	2.8	84	77	Arco (H)	83	-1	6.8	241	166	TV	220	-1	27.4
119	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	158	206	Barclays Bank	212	-1	2.8	85	78	Arco (I)	84	-1	6.8	242	167	TV	221	-1	27.4

MEDIA

270	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	159	207	Barclays Bank	213	-1	2.8	86	79	Arco (J)	85	-1	6.8	243	168	TV	222	-1	27.4
271	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	160	208	Barclays Bank	214	-1	2.8	87	80	Arco (K)	86	-1	6.8	244	169	TV	223	-1	27.4
272	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	161	209	Barclays Bank	215	-1	2.8	88	81	Arco (L)	87	-1	6.8	245	170	TV	224	-1	27.4
273	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	162	210	Barclays Bank	216	-1	2.8	89	82	Arco (M)	88	-1	6.8	246	171	TV	225	-1	27.4
274	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	163	211	Barclays Bank	217	-1	2.8	90	83	Arco (N)	89	-1	6.8	247	172	TV	226	-1	27.4

OTHER FINANCIAL

185	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	164	212	Barclays Bank	218	-1	2.8	91	84	Arco (O)	90	-1	6.8	248	173	TV	227	-1	27.4
186	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	165	213	Barclays Bank	219	-1	2.8	92	85	Arco (P)	91	-1	6.8	249	174	TV	228	-1	27.4
187	AAI Inc	44	-1	3.1	166	214	Barclays Bank	220	-1	2.8	93	86	Arco (Q)	9								

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OPERETTA page 31
Die Fledermaus fails to
take wing in a D'Oyly
Carte touring production
now at Sadler's Wells

ARTS

CONCERTS page 31
The Rudolph Valentino
of Russian baritones
gives a stylish recital
at the Wigmore Hall



Hawthorne crowns his career

CINEMA: Geoff Brown bends the knee as Oscar Best Actor nominees rule — in their various ways — in *The Madness of King George* and *Nobody's Fool*

When Alan Bennett's *The Madness of King George* first opened at the National Theatre in November 1991, there was much scratching of heads. Fine acting, of course, and an interesting excursion into history, but a play without an obvious point: why did Bennett write it? Then, as Nigel Hawthorne picked up awards and the production toured abroad, the deficiencies seemed to matter less. In effect, *Madness* stopped being regarded as a play, and became a performance: a virtuoso performance by a popular actor at the height of his powers, zig-zagging through the emotions as he portrayed a monarch racked with agonies mental, physical and political.

Transferred to film as *The Madness of King George* (American audiences, the argument went, would otherwise think it a sequel to two films they had not seen), the performance still dazzles and dominates. Hawthorne has his Oscar nomination for Best Actor to prove it. But now there are rivals for our attention. In the stage production, the director Nicholas Hytner kept settings and props to a minimum: chairs, curtains, chamber pots. The film, Hytner's cinema debut, abandons all such restraint.

In some scenes you can barely breathe for wigs, breeches and chest plumage as the cast parades in some stately location, with selections from Handel booming on the soundtrack. In others, Hytner and Bennett (who adapted his own play) send their tormented king out and about. He gallops on horseback through the grounds at Windsor, communes with pigs, joins a cricket match and rampages over fields in his nightgown at daybreak.

Some of this is excessive, although you can see the appeal of fresh air and a free-ranging camera to a director used to playing his craft inside Sir Denys Lasdun's concrete tomb on the South Bank.

The period detail, while

The Madness of King George
Lumiere, PG, 110 mins
Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme

Nobody's Fool
Odeon West End
15, 110 mins
Endearing Americana with Paul Newman

Drop Zone
Plaza, 15, 102 mins
Sky-diving nonsense

Mi Vida Loca
Metro, 15, 92 mins
The female perspective on LA gang life

overdone, serves a valuable purpose in bolstering the drama, lending it solidity if not momentum. Bennett's scattered juvenile jokes ("Piss the elder and piss the younger," one servant remarks, holding up two chamber pots) still seem like cherries willfully stuck on to a dull cake.

But the history means more this time: the camera pulls you into the king's plight in 1788, obsessed by the loss of the American colonies, bothered by the indolent Prince of Wales and a restive House of Commons.

The film also gives the other actors a better chance to strut their stuff. Helen Mirren emphasises the touching devotion of George's wife, Queen Charlotte. Rupert Everett, plus padded stomach, is amusing as the far and famous Prince of Wales, while Ian Holm cuts a forceful figure as the maverick Dr Willis, who calls a halt to cruel, archaic medical treatments and helps the king through an early version of psychotherapy.

At the end, temporarily recovered, the king instructs his son to wave at the welcoming crowds: "Let them see that we're happy, that is why we are here." The drama's own reason for existing — beyond telling its tale, and giving history a modern inflection — remains vague. But the film

hides the confusion better than the play, and Hawthorne's commanding performance, honed over three years on the stage, is preserved for posterity, or as long as celluloid lasts. Another Best Actor hopeful, Paul Newman, competes in *Nobody's Fool*, an endearing slice of smalltown Americana from writer and director Robert Benton. Donald "Sully" Sullivan is an unusual character for Newman, now normally seen in patrician roles. This 60-year-old construction worker has frittered away his life in a backwater of New York State. No funds to speak of: his damaged kneecap and prickly attitude limit his employment. No home, either: he rents a room from his old school teacher, the late Jessica Tandy. And no supportive family. A loser. His boss, Bruce Willis, even calls him a schmuck.

But this schmuck with a limp is at least optimistic. In the words of Richard Russo, author of the source novel, Sully "always concluded that in six months he'd be better off than he was now for the simple reason that he couldn't be any worse off." For all the bickering and abuse passing between friends, family and neighbours, this is a genial film on a human scale.

In North Bath, a fictional small town untouched by the suburban spread, people matter, not car chases or gunfire. Whatever drama there is comes mostly from life's small incidents: the strain of celebrating Thanksgiving; childish pranks with a snowblower machine; a feud with the local cop.

Newman, who turned 70 this January, can pass for 60 with ease. It must be that salad dressing he markets. The beady blue eyes are undimmed, the natural authority as strong as ever. Initially it may be hard to accept him as a non-achiever, but Newman plays with such crispness and zest that you watch transfixed. The jury at the Berlin Film Festival certainly did: he won the Best Actor prize.

Others are equally good, even Willis, buckling down to



Gagged and bound for glory: Nigel Hawthorne is royally indisposed while manifesting *The Madness of King George*

a little acting as the cranky boss of Tip Top Construction. The boss has an unhappy and sexy wife, Melanie Griffith: her late-flowering romance with Newman is not the script's most believable strand, but Griffith makes the character appealing. Surrounding townsfolk, like Gene Saks's lawyer, who yanks off his artificial leg to serve as a poker game stake, add further spice.

Benton, a smalltown boy himself, responds fondly to Russo's portrait of an America passed over by progress. You can almost sniff the air in these depressed streets, shrouded in grey winter weather. *Nobody's Fool* swims against the Hollywood main-

stream: where most films thrash our heads, *Nobody's Fool* — modest, nonchalant — taps us on the shoulder. Come prepared for quiet but potent delights.

Normal service is resumed in *Drop Zone*, where the plot occupies a few square inches on a screen that only comes to life when sky-divers jump off a jumbo jet, scoop up the odd body falling without a parachute, or feign the air during July 4 celebrations in Washington. Some divers do these things for fun, like Yancy Butler, whose wisecracking flier seems on loan from a Howard Hawks movie such as *Only Angels Have Wings*. Others, led by Gary Bussey, are bent on extravagant crime,

hacking into the computer files of the Drug Enforcement Administration. And none, whether off ground or on, can move a step without deafening musical accompaniment.

To catch the criminals, US marshal Wesley Snipes goes undercover. "Oh! Ah!" he cries as he attempts his first dive. The script does contain longer words, but none are important. The stunt team keeps the aerial thrills coming but the director John Badham, the master of empty-headed fun, does nothing to prevent the film becoming a waste of Snipes's talent, a poor excuse for entertainment, and a real strain on the eardrums.

Real life attempts a comeback in *Mi Vida Loca* (My

Crazy Life), Allison Anders's uninviting portrait of life among the young Mexican-American women of Echo Park, Los Angeles. Shooting took place on the gang-controlled streets shortly after the 1992 riots: some parts are played by gang members. But authentic lipstick and custom-built cars mean little when the acting overall is flat, and the story keeps shattering into separate scenes, with voice-over commentaries used as glue. As with *Gas Food Lodging*, Anders's first feature, a good film might be buried inside for now, though, we must rest content with promising hints, a few tender moments, and the jangling soundtrack's Latin pop music.

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RADIO

Ideal moan shows

CONSUMER programmes have been a growth area in radio over the past ten years, spearheaded by the BBC and, in particular, by Radio 4. Many of them, such as John Waite's *Face the Facts* and Derek Cooper's *The Food Programme*, have delivered a high standard of investigative reporting and exposed some ghastly never-do-wells.

The great thing about consumer programmes is that they appeal to the highly developed British sense of unfair play, which is a way of saying that we love a damn good moan. One of the prime moaning spots is at midday every weekday on Radio 4, when *You and Yours* is on the air with every manner of moan known to mankind. Much of it is valuable and informative, some of it is plain daft.

The trouble with *You and Yours* is that, having been allowed on to the air five days a week, it risks trivialising the agenda in order to fill the available space. It cannot be too many years before *You and Yours* has an item about the fact that Hampstead Heath tends to be windy and demanding that the Department of the Environment does something about it.

But what happens when a much moaned-about British institution (British Rail) falls victim to a much-vaunted modern policy (privatisation), raising the fear of God among a much-loved, if neglected, British minority (the disabled)?

The answer to that turned up on Tuesday evening when *In Touch*, the weekly programme for the blind, persuaded one of the prime bidders for the brave new world of railways into the studio. Brian Cox is managing director of Stagecoach, the bus company that now wishes to become a train company.

After listening to a litany of phoned-in complaints from blind people bemoaned by everything from British Rail to the alarming shortage of human beings able to help them on platforms, Cox found half a dozen ways of saying that he had found his time in the studio vastly informative and he would now go away and... think.

I doubt that this assurance gave much comfort to the disabled community, but although I happen to think that rail privatisation is a disaster I cannot for the life of me understand why Cox and the other private bidders for the rail network should be expected to provide a service that the public rail network has cynically failed to provide.

Yet it was clear from the tone taken by *In Touch* that consumer programmes are girding their loins for an assault on privatised rail companies. Therefore, in a few years, these programmes will encourage us to look back on the dear dead days of British Rail as some Utopian age of travel smashed to smithereens by Thatcherite hordes roaming the buffet cars in search of wheelchairs to heave out of the window.

I worry as much as the next civilised adult about the future of the railways, but I worry nearly as much about the tendency of consumer programmes to demand from the private sector standards undreamt of in the public one.

PETER BARNARD

Cézanne finds a home in the new South Africa

VISUAL ART: Sandra Bank is part of the commonwealth of inspiration, says John Russell Taylor



Sandra Bank's *The Distance Between*: "Her painting belongs to the great stream of international modernism, and yet South Africa still seems to be at the root of it"

As South Africa comes out of exile and into the real world again, it is natural that its artists should do the same. Certainly the art of Sandra Bank bears this out. Her painting belongs to the great stream of international modernism (representational strand), and yet South Africa still seems to be at the root of it.

Bank was born in Johannesburg, where she spent her childhood, and her art studies were all in South Africa, at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, and then in Cape Town. Here she acquired a solid academic grounding and skill, particu-

larly in drawing the human figure. In her schooldays the word of recent developments in European and American art was slow to arrive in South Africa, but the urge towards a valid contemporary idiom was strong, and art students built upon what they had available. The strongest influence on Bank, as on so many 20th-century artists, seems to have been Cézanne. He is still strongly present in the work she has done since she settled in London. The immediate impression presented by her oil paintings is of the predominant bluish-grey tones balanced with the dry earthy browns common to Provence in France and much of inland South Africa.

Look closer, and one discovers a passion for fragmenting the figures in a way that looks forward from Cézanne to early Cubism, and like both is concerned with conveying density and volume, three dimensions palpably present in two.

Bank is primarily interested in the human, most often the female nude. But the human figure is always in context, as part of a landscape united in the same artistic construct. It is difficult to decide whether the physical surroundings are anthropomorphised or the humans monumentalised, to attain the quality of trees or rocky outcrops. What is certain is that they co-exist in extraordinary harmony, all part of the same space-time continuum.

Nothing here, on the face of it, very South African. But there is something buried in even the most outward-looking paintings which comes out clearly in the brilliant series of small figure compositions in oil on paper. The paint is used almost like some dry medium — it could be oil-based pastel, for instance — to capture an instantaneous quality of movement momentarily arrested. These drawings/paintings look as though they were dashed off, like an oriental brush painting where the quickness of the eye deceives the hand.

Possibly Bank works the same way. But whether she does or not, these thumbnail sketches have the authority and occupy the mental space of much larger works. And they offer a clue to the larger, more formal work in their clear evocation of the native:

Southern African, the primitive world of the Kalahari and its primeval desert inhabitants.

Once recognised, the element is there even in works like the grand standing nude *She*: this, perhaps, is the reconciliation of man and his environment that Bank seems to be seeking throughout her works.

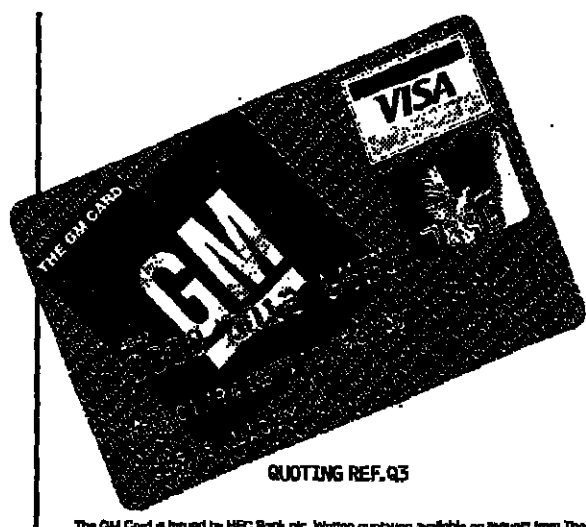
● Sandra Bank is at Harriet Green Gallery, 5 Silver Place, London W1 (0171-287 3328) until April 15

PASSION AFTER DINNER

LONDON
Comedy Theatre
BETTY, dressed in an expensive tailored suit with navy accessories, and sporting a rather swart hairdo, is all set for her son's wedding day — so why is she up in the attic? This is the beginning of Kay Mellor's *A Passionate Woman*, starring the award-winning Stephanie Cole from television's *Waiting for God* and directed by Ned Sherrin.

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

restaurant at the Hampshire Hotel £22.50 — the price of a theatre ticket — book: telephone 333388. Members can book top-price seats for Monday to Thursday performances from March 27 to April 13, and enjoy a two-course pre-theatre dinner with coffee in the Celebrities



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Rodney Milnes

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CONCERTS

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES
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Episodes in search of a story

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He was hurried hence twixt treason and convenience

Anne McElvoy on the spy whose accusations have united the Left and the Establishment against him

NEXT STOP EXECUTION

By Oleg Gordievsky
Macmillan, £16.99

If there were an award for troublemaker of the year, the Soviet defector Oleg Gordievsky would be odds-on favourite. First he outed Richard Gott, *The Guardian's* literary editor and *soi-disant* free spirit, as a Soviet agent of influence who admitted taking Red Gold. Then he raised the ire of both the Left and the Establishment, by suggesting that Michael Foot, a far better connected political eccentric, was considered to be worth the blandishments of the *Lubianka*.

Shooting the messenger is a popular British response to receiving unwelcome news about ourselves, and Gordievsky has been accused ever since of sowing discord in order to sell his book, of inconsistencies, and of being a mouthpiece for his handlers in British intelligence. No one likes a defector: those who come over to our side are considered far less glamorous than the Philby and Blakes who went the other way.

By their very nature, defectors cause trouble both in the country

they have fled and in the country they flee to. They can always be accused of being habitual liars — as *The Guardian* did Gordievsky when defending Gott. But *Next Stop Execution* does ring true as a sober account of how the KGB viewed Britain, Moscow, with its characteristic mixture of frightening determination and comical incompetence, endeavoured to control many in public life who considered themselves independent spirits hovering above the cruel choices of the Cold War.

Gordievsky provides a nuanced disentanglement of the motives and levels of awareness of those people in public life the KGB

classified as sources or agents. One may disagree with some of his conclusions or evaluations, but he does go about his task with the caution and meticulousness of a man motivated by the desire to throw light on dark areas, rather than that of a vengeful or attention-seeking fantasist.

Gordievsky is acutely pained by the gap between the way he sees himself — as someone who turned his back on a tyrannical regime and worked against it as a double agent, at considerable risk to his life — and the distrust with which he is treated here. But the bald truth is that a defector has no home. The KGB understood very well how to make treachery as unappealing as possible by referring to it, in hushed tones, as "a perverted act".

Evoking the peculiar mixture of brutality and courtesy which characterised life in the Soviet security services, we learn that



Gordievsky: troublemaker

divorce was frowned on and officers who strayed from their wives had to undergo a period in the career wilderness before being rehabilitated. Loud dressing and the use of *Mat* (profane slang) were also disdained, as was alco-

holic indulgence, despite the fact that many of the filing cabinets around the various directorates rattled with empty vodka bottles.

Gordievsky is at his strongest when he analyses KGB culture as the offspring of the Chekist tradition, in which erudition and elitism were blended with obsessive security doctrines. Thus the young officer is entranced on his first day at work by the wealth of Western books held in the library only to be told that being seen reading them too often would be marked down as a sign of an ideological weakening.

The book is fluently written, with dyspeptic humour at the expense of his Soviet colleagues, as they carry on spying industriously in the name of preserving a system whose shortages and failures are so apparent, even to the Nomenklatúra, that they dread being recalled from a Western embassy to a job at "the Centre".

Alas, this acuity is not matched in his account of dealings with British intelligence officers, who are invariably multi-talented, polite and honourable. I could however have done with more on Joan the redoubtable 55-year-old who planned his escape from Russia and then turns up in her stout shoes and tweed skirt in the middle of the Finnish forests to greet him when he clambers out of the boot of the getaway car.

There are careful omissions about his work for British intelligence. The decision by his handlers here to have him follow the call back to Moscow in 1985 was foolhardy and callous in the extreme. Greed for more knowledge prompted them to risk sacrificing him to the KGB hangman and Gordievsky's mild complaints do not do justice to the resentment he must have felt at the time.

Also hazy is the exact nature of the relationship between Gordievsky and M16 before his defection. Clearly, he was seeking a ticket to the West from early on, while it was in his handlers' interests to keep him working from within the enemy camp for as long as possible. There must have been more tensions in these dealings than he deems it polite to reveal.

One of the unconsciously touching things about Gordievsky's book is its revelation of the emotional limitations of the spy. His first marriage failed after his wife began to display "anti-domestic tendencies" in Copenhagen; his second was a casualty of his defection, left behind in Moscow, where she had been innocent of her husband's double life. Subject to KGB harassment and whispering campaigns, by the time she was freed to come to Britain she was "showing hostility and demanding explanations". Now that could only come as a surprise to someone who has manipulated human beings for a living.

Citizen Orson's ego

Nigella Lawson

ORSON WELLES
The Road to Xanadu
By Simon Callow
Jonathan Cape, £20

Orson Welles always claimed to abhor the use of the close-up in films. He believed that it was, as Simon Callow reports, "both undemocratic and aesthetically to exclude the rest of the world to the advantage of a single figure in it". It is difficult to accommodate that dictum with the colossal figure of Welles himself, whose mere presence seemed to attract so much of the spotlight that anyone near him would be plunged into darkness. Even if his book is intended to spread the beam a little more generously, Callow makes clear that this hogging of the light was not coincidental. Welles was no victim of the hype that always surrounded him. Perhaps he didn't need to be centre stage exactly, but he had to fill the frame.

Welles might seem a difficult subject for a new biography. The legend is already pretty much writ in stone. Callow's achievement is threefold: he embraces his subject with such gallumphing energy that the extraordinary power of his subject is conveyed as if for the first, fascinated time; he attempts a sober reassessment, trying to get an honest measure of someone who seemed larger than life without in any petty way cutting him down to size; and he provides a genuinely interesting actor's view of the actor.

This last is the particular distinction of this work, and it is worth remarking on because Callow's disquisition on Welles's theatricality is itself untheatrical: it is, indeed, almost austere in its firm intelligence. For those of us who know nothing of how the theatre works, how an actor works, it is illuminating.

Welles himself, Callow reports, and not without disapproval, wasn't really inter-

ested in acting. He loved the theatre, and in some sense saw acting as the least part of it. He felt that character wasn't important: personality was all. "It is absolutely impossible to give a great performance and have a single characteristic that is not the actor's own. It is impossible for a great actor to be anything but the same in every performance — absolutely impossible."

But this is the performance of a star, not an actor. Callow himself adds that for Welles — an egotist who despised introspection — personality was immutable: "One is who one is, and that's that. He does not admit to the possibility that... the actor's gift is to be able to release the discarded or repressed possibilities dormant within himself."

Welles's ego was such that he could not allow it to be fragmented by acting. His personality had not merely to remain intact, but others had to be subsumed into it. The myth of Welles has always been of a man so possessed of genius that he could do everything, did do everything. "ACTOR, POET, CARTOONIST — AND ONLY TEN!" reads an early press cutting.

But the more he cultivated his own legend, the bigger the role he accorded himself, the less room he gave himself to move in it. He grew hysterical when the actual writer of the adapted *War of the Worlds* was given the author's credit. He was stung when his co-writer on *Citizen Kane* was formally acknowledged, "as if anything less than total au-



"Thou canst not say I did it. Never shake Thy gory locks at me." Orson Welles, in the title role in his 1948 film of *Macbeth*, sees Banquo's ghost

thorship would expose him as a fraud". He was, writes Callow, "in perpetual competition with the 15-year-old prodigy he had been".

Unlike many contemporary biographers, Callow is little interested in digging dirt. I imagine, however, that his views on the homosexual aspects of Welles's character will be greeted, by the overreacting and suspect few, in this light.

But Callow's claims for his subject seem remarkably uncontentious. He simply points to the homosexual undertones of some of his relationships (though perhaps there is some nose-tapping innuendo behind a remark about "a succession of iconically beautiful consorts who were always to be found at his side"). But that seems entirely of a piece with

what we know of Welles. He was a seducer, he needed to cast people in his spell, to enchant them. People like this don't care whether the object of their seductions is male or female: the desire is to possess, to charm, to conquer. More innocently, we usually call this charisma.

Seven hundred pages for a book that takes Welles just up to the age of 26 might initially seem swamping. But by removing from immediate inquiry the spectre of Welles as he was to become — bloated, old and grotesque — we, as well as his earlier self, are somehow freed from it. It is this which makes *The Road to Xanadu* feel, improbably, like a fresh journey rather than another weary, ironic retreading of the route.

All the world, now in its third edition

These three books are the grandchildren of the first edition of the famous series, the Arden Shakespeare, which was published at the beginning of this century. The second series, with all the plays re-edited, came out, rather slowly, after the Second World War (the Sonnets killed off two editors and never got finished). These three grandchildren launch the third series, in which all the plays (and, one hopes, the Sonnets) will be edited and presented afresh.

Why all these editions? If we look at the first *Antony and Cleopatra*, edited by R.H. Case in 1906, we find the two main purposes of that first series plainly embodied in it: to establish a sound text of the play, and by good annotation make it intelligible and enjoyable for the new 20th-century reader. Case looks into all the uses in Elizabethan language of dubious words in the early texts of the play, in order to decide what Shakespeare actually wrote. He goes deeply into those factual questions, like the date of the play, which have enabled innumerable non-literary schoolchildren to get good marks in their A-level Eng. Lit. But his criticism is wholly Victorian, in the style of his master, the great A.C. Bradley. It is an exclusively psychological and moral study of the characters of Antony and Cleopatra.

M.R. Ridley, who did the second version in 1954, did not change very much. But he threw out some of Case's punctuation marks, taking the view that Case had "rewritten Shakespeare for logical comprehension", whereas Shakespeare's more meagre punctuation often indicated the speed and emphasis with which he wanted the lines spoken — it was "tantamount to stage directions" and a good actor would instinctively pick up its implications.

This anticipates an important development in the latest edition. John Wilders, the new editor of *Antony and Cleopatra*, is like his third-generation

colleagues in drawing not only on critics but also on stage directors for his interpretation. He shows convincingly how the simple, uncluttered productions at Stratford by Glen Byam Shaw in 1953 and Trevor Nunn in 1972 brought out the powerful dramatic effect of the strings of short scenes — the very feature of the play that led earlier critics to call it "badly organised" and "lacking in unity".

In his introduction, Wilders also gets right away from undiluted character study. He draws out, through his exami-

nation of the play's imagery, the brilliant interplay between the private emotions of the two chief characters and the underlying political themes. *Antony and Cleopatra* is not, as Bradley thought, a "failed tragedy" with an unworthy hero and heroine — it is just a very different kind of play, and equally successful.

The three editions of *Henry V* follow a similar pattern to those of *Antony and Cleopatra*, though here one question dominates all the commentaries: was Shakespeare presenting Henry to us for our admiration or our scorn? The first editor, H.A. Evans in 1903, thought that however badly Prince Hal had behaved in *Henry IV*, Parts 1 and 2, now as *Henry V* he is "entitled to unreserved admiration". J.H. Walter in 1954 was more cautiously on Henry's side. The new editor, T.W. Craik, loyally surveys the views of many critics, but evidently

Derwent May

THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE

Third Edition

Antony and Cleopatra
Edited by John Wilders
King Henry V
Edited by T.W. Craik
Titus Andronicus
Edited by Jonathan Bate
Routledge, each volume
£30/£5.99 pbk

But to look back at the first Arden edition, H.B. Baldon in 1912, is also a surprise. Baldon too thought it was a splendid play. Shakespeare, he said, was no "namby-pamby", and he heaps derision on a Victorian critic who wrote "the introduction of rape as a subject for the stage would be sufficient to disprove Shakespeare's authorship". "A more ridiculous and fatuous remark it would be impossible to find in the annals of criticism," Bailey comments. Bate would no doubt agree.

The new Arden editions are handsomely printed and easily portable in an overcoat pocket. They provide all that is necessary for a beginning in both the appreciation of Shakespeare and sound literary scholarship. They could hardly be bettered as foundation stones for a culture.

Short sharp shocker

Michael Arditti

HOT IRONS
Diaries, Essays,
Journalism

By Howard Brenton
Nick Hern, £15.99

Howard Brenton believes that the main audience for weekly repertory theatre consists of middle-aged, middle-class women. Back in the mid-1960s these ladies might have been horrified to know that, lurking behind the familiar French windows at the Connaught Theatre in Worthing, was an acting assistant stage manager who would soon be lobbing dramatic hand grenades onto the English stage.

Brenton was the first of his generation of playwrights to have work produced on the main stages of both the Royal Court and the National. In recent years, he has been overshadowed by his friend and quondam collaborator, David Hare, while seeing his distinctive brand of epic theatre become both economically unviable and critically unfashionable. Nevertheless, at his best, he has always had a unique ability to marry striking stage imagery with sustained political thought.

Now he has brought out this collection of journals and jottings, essays and articles. The diaries, in particular, confirm the pertinence of the title. Even while rehearsing and rewriting *Bertie at the Royal Court*, he has another "iron in the fire" in a Channel 4 commission. He has always "struck while the iron is hot" with such contentious plays as *A Short Sharp Shock*, an anti-Thatcher satire or squib, and *Moscow Gold*, about Gorbachev, produced at a time when the fire of socialism had dwindled to an ember.

Certain themes recur throughout. He berates English culture which separates art from politics and envies other European writers their role as social commentators as well as domestic chroniclers. Indeed, he considers only one question to be valid when making theatre: "how can we live justly?", which is true of any great play or comic's act from Aeschylus to Jacques Tati. His own outlook is international; and the diaries chronicle trips to Australia, rain forests and post-Glasnost Russia, while the essays celebrate writers such as Genet, Brecht and Brecht.

The most fascinating section of diaries details the long reading tour which he undertook in 1982 to raise funds to contest the private prosecution that Mary Whitehouse brought against *The Romans in Britain*. Although the play itself is one of his least accomplished, it remains a damning indictment of the English puritan conscience that an act of brutal rape should have been confused with one of illicit pleasure.

Though it cannot compete with Alan Bennett's best-selling collection, *Writing Home*, Brenton's dry prose offers an honest account of what it was like to be a playwright in the 1980s, a decade he characterises as a "moral Legoland".

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FRANCES HEGARTY, *Post*

Now in **HarperCollins Paperback**

صحنه من الامم

Malcolm Bradbury sees Martin Amis's novel as a comedy on a cosmic scale in the grand American style by a master of language

Forget the hype, feel the breadth

Let's forget for a moment the matter of the fabulous advance, the expensive bridge-work, the claims of agents and publishers. A writer is worthy of his hire: one novel by Martin Amis is worth many by the higher-paid Jeffrey Archer or Sally Beaman. Let's forget too the high profile interviews, respectfully conducted in post-divorce London apartments or Manhattan pool rooms. Amis may be a high fashion object, a quality sample of street cred. He also happens to be an amazingly good writer, a great creator of fictional vision and language.

Let's forget it except to say this. This is a novel about most of these things: about writers, reputation, and male literary competitiveness, conducted in effect to the death. It's about celebrity, posterity and appropriate cultural recognition, about the bad writer as success, the better writer as failure. One irony is that the writer with whom Amis here most identifies himself is Richard Tull — a 44-year-old literary failure, rotting with middle age and envy, a necromancer smelling of his own mortality, who is subjected to every possible literary humiliation. His very passport has been surrendered: when he submits his new novel (titled *Untitled*) his agent, agent's assistant and publish-

er are struck down by sudden diseases by page nine, and he sees himself sliding down into death and decay — along with the universe itself.

By contrast, his rival, Gwyn Barry, good friend and worst enemy, has fabulously succeeded with an anodyne book about a drab, sexless multicultural utopia, which has gratified readers looking for euphemistic universalism. Success, or the wrong kind of success, is the real enemy. A kind of comic virtue attaches to failure. In fact, it's not simply comic but cosmic —

associated with the decay of the hungry genes, the rotting of the flesh, the earth-death of the planet. When an Amis hero has a mid-life crisis, it really is a crisis, set in the big cosmic frame — nothing less than the post-Hubble universe itself, which is nightly giving us the "information", information on our status as contemptible specks in the schemeless scheme of things.

This needs avenging, and *The Information* is a revengeer's comedy: a knowing, *fin de siècle* comedy of literary degradation, cultural slippage, social and sexual humours, urban collapse, male menapausal crisis, endless human rivalry, global depression. It's set in Amis's familiar, transatlantic, apocalyptic world of trex and misery: the streets of London and urban America are as formidable and dangerous as ever. The



Martin and Kingsley Amis. Britain's most celebrated literary double act: father and son share an obsession with intonation and voicing

world is a competition — at the pool table, on the tennis court, at the chess game, as well as in the bedroom or at the literary signing. The endgame of revenge Tull starts to play, aided by a now familiar group of London low-lives, is equally life-threatening. Out on the streets, for the price of eight negative reviews, you can actually get a writer killed.

However, the classical literary rules are also mused on and considered. Literature has

completed a large-scale, Northrop Fryan artistic descent, from gods to heroes, kings to our peers and then to our inferiors; tragedy has slipped into irony. Hence here is an ironic comedy — and comedy has dangers and humiliations, but benign habits too. The book's ending had better be preserved: but it's safe to say it's one your mother, and even your father, could read. Some of the postmodern trickery has gone, and Amis has found his

own authorial position: between and above the two writers, as a cosmic mediator, not averse to taking us off on a trip down his own street or a tour of the outer galaxy. Amis admires the big American writers for their desire to write the ambitious, world-historical book. His writing shares their sense of grandeur, and some of their flaws. This is a book of brilliant energies. Amis is here all over the place, viewing the literary and social

culture, genetics, science and history. There are local scenes of remarkably good rendering: a visit to an aristocratic household in East Anglia, where all the daughters are lactating, the house grinds endlessly with its ancient systems of heating, and your noble lord is just on the verge of his stroke. Mostly, it's set in more familiar spaces: those London streets where one driver drives through daily at 60 mph; the shabby offices of a little maga-

zine (called *The Little Magazine*), ever in the process of growing littler; the tiring, tired airports of the American writers' tour; the humiliations of the double signing. What's on display are more than just observed social phenomena. This is culture in slippage, passing over the hump of the millennium, into an age where writers are all called John Two Moons, and readers want confirmation of their own agendas and myopias.

BACKLIST

Books by Martin Amis
THE RACHEL PAPERS
 1975, Penguin £5.99
DEAD BABIES
 1975, Penguin £5.99
SUCCESS
 1978, Penguin £5.99
OTHER PEOPLE
 1981, Penguin £5.99
MONEY
 1984, Penguin £5.99
THE MORONIC INFERNO
 1986, Penguin £5.99
LONDON FIELDS
 1989, Penguin £5.99
TIME'S ARROW
 1991, Penguin £5.99
VISITING MRS NABOKOV
 1993, Penguin £6.99

There's much observation of what is sometimes called male misogyny, really a renegotiation of gender psychology, much comic disgust, much cosmic despair.

But if that gives Amis one basis for his comedy, another is, quite simply, his commanding mastery of language itself. Intonation and voicing are matters of constant obsession, and one key plot point (following Amis père) turns on the malapropism of a sentence. Many of the jokes on style and discourse are superb (a fine passage on those writers who follow a neuter antecedent with female pronoun). But above all this is a comedy of the enraged passions, and a comedy of humiliation.

The Information sparkles with Amis's distinctive rage, disgust, stylistic observation, language. It's a middle-aged book, he tells us; and now there is something almost world-weary about his familiar world-weariness. (If you think 40 is the end of the world, have a go at 60). At times, at 500 pages, it plainly struggles for plot and development; there are scenes and meditations where the author simply detains us far too long, and the sparkle dies. The writerly energy is overwhelming — and I'd rather be held up by a few Amis longeurs than work a more ponderous way through many of the books now front-running the market.

This fair defect of nature

Rachel Cusk

SOMETHING ABOUT WOMEN
 By P.H. Newby
 André Deutsch, £12.99

P.H. Newby's amusing novel *Something About Women* does not necessarily intend to be a story of old age. In fact, its cast of characters is essentially youthful, beset by adventure, dilemma and discovery; and yet over their dramas presides a different intelligence, a benign but fragile consciousness of things past, of fragmentation and change, which speaks quietly of the irrevocable.

This consciousness belongs to Owen Bark, a retired Anglican clergyman who went to Oxford as a young man and never left, and who now, put out to pasture by his college, spends his solitary days writing articles on religious affairs and being superintended by his bossy elder sister. The suspended reality of the academic world, along with frailty and attacks of angina, have calcified Owen in a realm of intellectual abstraction, a parched place from which he attempts to make sense of social change. His awareness of difference is anxious and remote: free from its impingement, he views a distant landscape of racial and sexual integration from the bunker of his religious and domestic life.



Newby in 1958: BBC executive and Booker winner, 1969

Try as he might to protect himself, however, the modern world has of course already made its way to his heart and claimed him as its victim. The theft of his wallet by a young woman ("it was against nature") is the catalyst. Owen's quasi-religious worship of the feminine ideal — the keystone of his objection to women priests — must somehow be

married to the real women who have populated his life. His wife has long since left him for another man and gone to America, taking with her their daughter. His sister continues to bully him, in much the same way as she has done since they were children. All around him women are cropping up as doctors, academics and prime ministers, few of

them taking the Virgin Mary as a role model.

What Owen must do is get back in step and rejoin life, and his opportunity comes when his daughter, now grown up, returns to England with her American businessman husband. She makes contact with him, and Owen is returned to the human situation and forced to act. Newby adds a bittersweet flavour to these developments for all the necessity which underpins Owen's engagement with the younger generation, the mild but discernible aura of corruption surrounding their circumstances is never quite redeemed by their goodness.

His own deeply held Christianity finds much in their dilemma, but he has lost too his ability to perceive perfection. "I used to think... that women were better than men," he says. "Experience has taught me they are much of a muchness." What he seeks finally is "the most profound reality of all, the embracing love of God".

Something About Women is a charming novel, interesting for its unusual evocation of old age (which pardons some uncertainties in idiom), and for its attempt to find a spiritual corner in lives over-cluttered with the worldly.

Rachel Cusk's second novel, *The Temporary*, will be published in July.

Someone rotten in a deep freeze

Gill Hornby

A SPELL OF WINTER
 By Helen Dunmore
 Viking, £15

HELEN Dunmore is a poet, short story and children's writer, who has only recently turned her accomplished hand to novels. *A Spell of Winter* is her third offering, and it bears the distinctive lyrical beauty of its predecessors. This time the poet's hand is more apparent than the novelist's.

The story is set in an English country house. The reader is told neither its name, nor its geographical situation. It is not the facts but the feel of a place which are the author's concern: the walls which "trapped sunlight and fed it back to you when you leaned against them after dusk", the "yeasty smell of the cellars". Similarly, we are not encumbered with dates. We know that ladies still wear stays and the stove needs blackening, a lemon is exotic and white bread is for the wealthy. But it is not until the young men troop off to the fields of France that the novel moves from pure mood into historical context.

The heroine is Catherine: a girl on the cusp of womanhood, from a family on the brink of disintegration, living in a country poised on the edge of war. Her mother has bolted, her father gone mad, and her grandfather is becoming ever more remote. She and her brother, Rob, are left clinging to the wreckage, and each other, with an illicit intensity.

This is a morbid piece: it opens with a corpse, and there are plenty more to follow. Catherine's father, governess, grandfather and aborted fetus are all lowered into the ground in quick succession; they are just the *hors d'oeuvres* before the Great War.

Throughout, Dunmore's imagery is as cold as the grave. Catherine is a winter's child and has always claimed comfort from the cold. She longs for the mercury to drop, and for a "spell of winter" to hang over the house. She gets her wish. In a den of snow and ice which they build together, Catherine and Rob find their incestuous erotic awakening. It is the final nail in their family's coffin.

Helen Dunmore is an unusually fine writer. There is a strong and sensuous magic to *A Spell of Winter*, yet it is not the best of her work. Perhaps it is the poet in her that has emphasised style at the expense of substance. She creates an atmosphere, but forgets to change it, and strikes but one, persistent note — haunting, even piercing, but ultimately monotonous.

Lamentations of a widower

Daniel Johnson

NEW SELECTED POEMS
 1957-1994
 By Ted Hughes
 Faber, £14.99/£7.99 pbk

Like many another child of my generation, I encountered contemporary poetry at school in his *New Selected Poems* is one that particularly impressed me by the ingenious simplicity of the extended metaphor — the poem's description of a fox moving through the snow at midnight is also an evocation of the creative process, the gradual emergence of a poetic idea *ex nihilo* — "till, with a sudden sharp hot stink of fox/it enters the dark hole of the head".

Despite his demonisation by the morbid cult generated by Sylvia Plath's gratuitously abbreviated career, Ted Hughes has imperceptibly taken on the mantle of Bejerman as the grand old man of English poetry: Poet Laureate, the subject of monographs and dissertations, he is now accorded the rare honour of a second definitive compilation

less than 15 years after the first *Selected Poems*. One could make a plausible case for Hughes as the greatest poet of nature in English since Wordsworth, but his birds and beasts belong to the same supernatural family as Blake's tiger and Rilke's panther. Yet it is clear, above all from the hitherto uncollected poems included in this new volume, that his first marriage to Sylvia Plath has overshadowed the whole of Hughes's

writing career. There is something deeply sad and yet also noble about the spectacle of a veritable master of his craft dedicating so much of his energy to the painful memory of an apprentice. She is omnipresent in these late works. In *You Hated Spain*, one of the most recent uncollected poems, Hughes addresses her directly, as he so often does, recalling her unphosphated revulsion at the strangeness of Spanish culture to "a bobby-sox American".

You saw right down to the Goya funeral grin
 And recognized it, and recoiled
 As your poems winced into a chill,
 As your panic
 Clutched back towards college America.

He conjures the "grey-faced matador" at the bullfight "vomiting with fear", and the dawning reality for his young wife of "the pucker of amputations/No literature of an apprentice. Spain becomes an extended metaphor for life itself, with all its petty cruelties and emotional betrayals, its disappointed hopes and intimidating harshness. "Spain was what you tried to wake up from/And could not."

To those who have elevated Sylvia Plath to the status of an oracle, Hughes might seem to be patronising in this characterisation of her: was she really so unworlly, so naive, so American? To this the answer is: he knew her best; he was her husband. And in the coda to this fine poem, Hughes



Hughes: grand old man

transfigures his absent interlocutor into the immortal beloved of his predestined bereavement. She is an Ophelia to his Hamlet, a Eurydice to his Orpheus:

I see you, in moonlight

Walking the empty wharf at Alicante
 Like a new soul, still not understanding.
 Thinking it is still your honeymoon
 In the happy world, with your whole life waiting.
 Happy, and all your poems still to be found.

Sylvia Plath's squalid end at the age of 31 ensured that she never fulfilled her promise as a poet, but has transformed her into the tragic heroine of a literary industry. That cannot have been her intention. It is as the major poet she wanted so badly to be that Hughes memorialises her. His sense of her limitations as a person adds poignancy to his tributes to her as a poet. These valedictory verses are a widower's exhortation to the Almighty to have mercy on the never-quiete-departed soul of his lost consort — and a plea to give his own troubled spirit peace.

THE TIMES Penguin FESTIVAL OF FICTION

PENGUIN Books is 60 years old this year. In the last of a series in which famous titles from the Penguin list are seen through the eyes of contemporary *Times* journalists, the obituary trial involving *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is the subject of an ambivalent leading article.

A jury of nine men and three women have decided that D. H. Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is not obscene. While Penguin Books Ltd get ready to do record business, and while Sir Allen Lane will receive the congratulations of all those who sincerely believe that a bad taboo has been broken and an unnecessary restraint lifted, many equally sincere people will be asking themselves exactly where the consequences will stop. For, in spite of the impressive parade of witnesses for the defence, well nigh all affirming that the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* could do nothing but good, it would not have been difficult to match them, bishop for bishop and don for don, with a similar parade taking exactly the opposite view.

In fairness to Lawrence, his novel is wholly concerned with normal copulation. It depicts no perverted vice, his characters do not indulge in unnatural practices or abhorrent acts. There is no nastiness in his approach. He does not smigger. But on the grounds of decency, and taste, and even morals, it is still possible to express dissent. It is hard to make the major premise of the book other than that Constance Chatterley was behaving naturally in being unchaste both before and throughout marriage and was justified in lying with one man after another until she found one to her satisfaction. Now that this novel can go into the hand of every man, woman, adolescent, and child, is it possible to be sure it will have no harmful effect on morals?

A great shift in what is permissible legally has been made. But not morally. Yesterday's verdict is a challenge to society to resist the changes in its manners and conduct that may flow from it. It should not be taken as an invitation to succumb.

(The Times, February 3, 1960)

Superb author events in March

THE PENGUIN Festival of Fiction will feature eight midweek and weekend events throughout March, with more than 40 Penguin authors taking part in debates, readings, workshops and signings. Everyone attending will be entered into a FREE PRIZE DRAW to win a hamper full of Penguin goodies each Wednesday and a COMPAQ PRESARIO 460 all-in-one home computer each Saturday.

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 11.40am Laurie Lee in Conversation
 12.15pm Contemporary Fiction
 Readings: Roshni Gunesekera,
 Aisling Foster, Clare Chambers,
 Angela Lambert
 1.00pm Book Signing
 2.00pm Humour: Beryl Bainbridge,
 Howard Jacobson, Lynne Truss
 3.00pm Bestsellers: Does Sex Play a Part? Merve Haran, Celia Braviloff
 3.40pm Masculinity: Will Self,
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THE TIMES



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Winners take all of Formula One's rich rewards

Oliver Holt reports on the crippling cost of competing for teams at the wrong end of the grand prix grid

Away from the glamour and the glitz, the celebrities preening themselves in the paddock, the drivers as debonair as you like on the grid before their high-octane duels, there is a hidden, darker side to grand prix motor racing that intrudes on the sport like a down-and-out at a society ball. Formula One may appear to be one long feast of conspicuous consumption but for many of the teams it is a dour struggle for financial survival.

Lotus, one of the most famous names in motor sport, went into administrative receivership last season, laid off its staff during the winter and then abandoned efforts to compete this year amid tales of sequestered chassis rusting in sheds in the Norfolk countryside.

CAR 95

In Car 95 this Saturday: the complete colour guide to the Formula One season

There are also lingering doubts about the ability of the French team, Larrousse, to field two cars for the opening race of the season in São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday. For the leading teams, with their wealthy tobacco sponsors, it may be business as usual but at the wrong end of the grid, it is a tough fight to make it to the track at all.

Jordan, the Irish team owned by Eddie Jordan and based at Silverstone, is somewhere in the middle. It has experienced the lean times since it entered grand prix racing four years ago but now it is beginning to glimpse a land of plenty, a place where some travel costs are paid for, engines are gratis, prize-money rewards success and sponsors are keen to sign on the dotted line.

"Last year was the first year when we could go to a race and not have to worry about whether we could make the next one," Jordan says. "We still do things a lot cheaper than anyone else. We don't cut corners in vital areas but we do cut corners. The first thing that is ever asked in this team is 'will it make the car go

quicker? If we serve caviar instead of black pudding it is not going to make the car go quicker."

Jordan recognises, though, that economising is just a small part of ensuring financial survival. The team received a huge fillip this year when it signed a deal with the French manufacturer, Peugeot, which guaranteed free engines for three years and saved about £4 million. Fuel, all 75,000 litres of it, comes free too, courtesy of Total, and the majority of the freight costs for the long-haul journeys are

taken care of by the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) because Jordan finished in the top ten teams last year. "Paying for the engines used to be our biggest worry," Ian Phillips, Jordan's commercial director, said. "It used to account for 40 per cent of our budget, and it put us on the knife edge. To have that taken out of our hands by a major manufacturer is wonderful."

With the money saved on

engines and fuel, Jordan were able to afford, for the first time, to pay their drivers, Rubens Barrichello, the talented young Brazilian, and Eddie Irvine, the accident-prone

sors. More money will also be allocated to testing sessions and the team is about to establish a separate testing unit so that it can continue to develop the car even when the team is away at races. "Testing is more expensive than racing," Phillips said. "On race day you can only do a maximum of 200 miles but at a test the circuit will open at 10am and shut at 6pm. You can run all that time if you want to and get through

a massive amount of miles. That means tyres and engines and fuel and spares."

Some of the spiralling costs are met by prize-money from the 16 races that comprise the championship. It is a shadowy system, the exact details of which remain a secret, but it rewards consistently good performances rather than occasional outstanding ones. A place in the top ten constructors' championship is worth more than £1 million and also guarantees a cut of the television bounty.

About 90 per cent of Jordan's expenditure, though, is garnered through the backing of sponsors. There are 32 companies involved with the team, three paying about 10 per cent each of the budget in return for prime advertising spots on the car and the warm hospitality that Jordan provides at races.

Bernie Ecclestone, the president of FOCA, has little sympathy with the minnows. "A second quarter costs extra," he said. "Even two-tenths of a second is expensive. It's cheap to go slow, but quick is a bit more pricey."

Jordan: cutting corners



Hibs and the c and tu the pre

TABLE

TABLE

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most people play that an opening bid of Two Clubs is forcing to game (with one exception — see below).

Traditionally, the responder was required to bid Two Diamonds if his high-card strength was less than an ace and a king, and otherwise to give a "positive" — any bid other than Two Diamonds. However, that method had many drawbacks.

To see if you need the Refresher today, decide what you would respond on each of the hands below after your partner has opened Two Clubs.

(A) ♠KQ1064 ♥Q42 ♦J32 ♣63
(B) ♠Q42 ♥J32 ♦KQ1064 ♣63
(C) ♠A763 ♥A83 ♣642 ♦1064
(D) ♠A42 ♥J65 ♦AQJ1063 ♣84

(A) Two Spades: If you have a decent five-card major suit, this is enough to give a positive response; but do not ever respond in a four-card suit.

(B) Two Diamonds: To respond at the three level you need a better suit. Apart from anything else, a Three Diamond bid consumes quite a lot of space, so should be used only for a restricted type of hand.

(C) Two Diamonds: Although Two Diamonds used to be described as "negative", "relay" is a better description of the modern usage. That is, it is a mark-time bid, made on both weak hands and hands with a few high cards but no decent suit. At one time, players would respond 2NT to show a "balanced positive" (the hallooed ace and king).

The drawbacks of that are: a) you may be playing the hand the wrong way up — it is always better for the big hand to be declarer in no-trump contracts; if that is the correct denomination, this hand is easy to bid after the Two Diamond response.

If your partner rebids 2NT (the only non-forcing bid, showing a balanced 23-24 points), you raise to 3NT. If your partner bids 3NT (25-26 points), you bid 6NT. If your partner rebids, say, Two Hearts or Two Spades, you raise and make a cue bid later to show extra strength.

The only type of hand on which I would respond 2NT would be one with tenaces in all suits, for example:

♠KJ9 ♥Q104 ♦K1043 ♣Q102

For those unfamiliar with the term, card combinations with gaps in them, as in the above hand, are called "tenaces". The combination A Q is known as a "major tenace".

(D) Three Diamonds: This is a minimum for a three level response — you need a good six card suit headed by some top honours.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AXONOST
a. A stepped pyramid
b. A fish bone
c. A Peruvian language

CANK
a. To bully or tease
b. A splinter
c. Sandstone

EUCOMIS
a. An Etruscan nobleman
b. An exotic lily
c. A dry flower vase

BLIKEN
a. A smiling mascot
b. A camp kettle
c. To make friends with

Answers: page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Grunfeld revived

In the 1920s, Ernst Grunfeld, the Austrian Grandmaster, invented a new defence to the queen's pawn openings. Grunfeld's idea was to grant White a giant pawn centre and then snipe at it from the wings.

In recent years, Grunfeld's invention has been under a cloud.

Garry Kasparov used it with notable lack of success in a number of world championship games against Anatoly Karpov, his great rival. However, in the match between Gata Kamsky and Viswanathan Anand, the Grunfeld's fortunes have revived.

Anand has been using it with great success to blunt the force of Kamsky's normally powerful opening preparation with White.

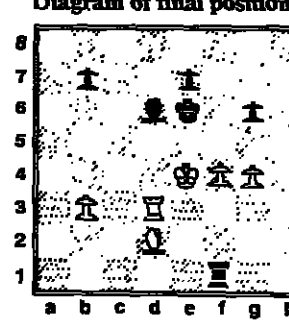
The tenth game of their match in Las Palmas was a case in point. Anand achieved the draw with relative ease. The score is now 5½ to 4½ in Anand's favour with two games to go.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Viswanathan Anand
PCA Candidates, Las Palmas, March 1995

Grunfeld defence
1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 d5
4 cxd5 Nxd5
5 e4 Ne7
6 Bc3 Bg7
7 Bb4 c5
8 Ne2 O-O
9 Bb3 Nd6
10 Rc1 cxd4
11 cxd4 Qa5+
12 Kf1 Qa3
13 Qb3 Qxb3
14 Bxb3 Bb7
15 f4 Rf8
16 Kf2 Na5
17 d5 Nb3

18 aeb3 Rb2
19 Rxc6+ Rxc6
20 Bxb7 Rb2
21 Kf3 Rb1
22 aeb5 Bxb5
23 Rd1 Bxb3
24 Bxb3 Bxb3
25 N3 Bxb3
26 Nd4 Bb7
27 Rc1 Kf7
28 g4 h5
29 Kg3 Rb5
30 Ne5 Bxb6
31 dxb6+ Rxb6
32 Kf3 Rb2
33 Rd1 Rb2
34 Rd3 bxb4+
35 hxb4 Rb1
36 Bb2 Rf1+
37 Ke4 Rf1+
38 Ke4 Rf1+
40 Kf3 Rf1+
41 Ke4 Draw agreed

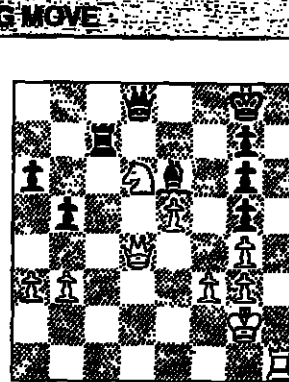
Diagram of final position



Polgar qualifies

In the qualifying final at St Petersburg for the women's world championship organised by Fide, the World Chess Federation, Zsuzsa Polgar, from Budapest, has fought through with ease — 5½ to 1½ — against Maya Chiburdanidze, of Georgia, the former women's world champion. Polgar will challenge Xie Jun, of China, for the title later this year.

WINNING MOVE



By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Meijer - Colobova, Bern 1955. Combinations can often be spotted by pinpointing weaknesses in the opponent's position. In this spectacular position with no less than five pawns on the g-file, the weak point is that Black's queen is undefended. How can White use this to his advantage?

Solution: page 38

SPORTS LETTERS

Sour grapes leave bad taste

From Mr J. G. M. Watt

Sir, Do any rugby union followers, English or Scottish, really want to listen to ill-mannered comments in the aftermath of a great sporting occasion, from the likes of Brian Moore? After England's defeat of Scotland at Twickenham last Saturday, BBC viewers were able to listen to eloquent and sporting sentiments from Will Carling and Rob Andrew and then to the thoughts of Moore. His comments about the opposition were an embarrassment to his team-mates and to England supporters and an insult to Gavin Hastings and his team.

Moore should stick to what he does best: playing fierce and committed rugby, for which he is feared and admired throughout the world. I think most people must be getting fed up with his attitude as a bad winner. Sour grapes traditionally come from a team that has just been beaten, not from a player who has just helped his country to win a major sporting event.

Yours sincerely,
J. G. M. WATT,
41 Spencer Walk, SW15.

From Mr Andrew Corfield
Sir, Simon Barnes's defence of Scotland's sporting tactics (March 20) is fundamentally flawed. The laws of rugby union, particularly those relating to offside, have been developed to allow true skills to flourish. Flouting those

rules destroys the innate structure of the game, reducing it to a disorganised scrap. Rather than deriding England, Barnes would be better addressing the problem of poor referees who allow such rule-breaking. Perhaps the game is now too fast and complex for one official.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. CORFIELD,
Hinton, Elm Road, Hereford.

From Mr Howard Campbell
Sir, All those penalties! Not to detract from the excellence of goalkeeping this season by all nations, and Andrew in particular, is it not the laws of the game again that are at fault? All this carping about spoiling tactics make sad viewing and reading.

Surely the mauls are the fault — a free-for-all with every temptation to try and move the ball away from the opposition at all costs — so who can blame the players with natural human frailty?

Administrators should consider returning to the rucking-only rule with "down to the feet and heel" (and other possible modifications) then hopefully the ball will go out to the wings with more free running; and when did we last hear the cry of "Feet, Scotland"?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD H. CAMPBELL,
(Scottish international, 1947-48),
5 Cleve Court, Sreatley, Reading, Berkshire.

Need for strong deterrents

From Mr John F. Coghlan

Sir, Rob Hughes's perceptive article concerning Dennis Wise (March 14) touches closely on the ethics and morals of modern sport at elite level and below. Sport is an integral part of British culture, so why should we be dismayed, although disappointed, when the ethics of the City, commerce and public life are reflected in sport?

It has been ever thus from Victorian days, and before, to today, when the market rules and greed has become fashionable. Whilst those passionately concerned with sport regard the fall from expected standards, because we see sport as itself setting standards of behaviour, we should not be any more shocked when this happens than we are by a City or political scandal.

This is not to be complacent, to shrug the shoulders and accept it as inevitable, but rather we should work at strengthening our sporting structures, eliminating the

cheats and those who use sport to make a fast buck.

The teaching of team sports is not about producing candidates for national teams, although this is a welcome by-product, but is about the values of sport, its civilising and socialising benefits, the need to play within the rules in the hope of those values being carried over into adult life.

The moral and ethical pressures on top sportsmen and women is as never before and the temptations are great. The deterrents must be draconian, secure and thorough, and the preventative systems foolproof to ensure that those tempted will stand back. We must accept that top-level sport today is not sport as we knew some years ago, but rather showbusiness in a sporting format.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. COGHLAN
(Deputy director,
Sports Council, 1975-83),
2 Dunrobin Way,
Wargrave, Berkshire.

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LITTLEWOOD

Sampras retains world No 1 spot for 100 weeks

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN KEY BISCAYNE

PETE SAMPRAS, as a result of reaching the last eight of the Lipton tennis championships, has ensured he will remain the world's No 1-ranked player, a position he will have held for precisely 100 weeks. Nevertheless, he would willingly sacrifice the honour to win the one grand slam title to have eluded him — the French Open.

To emphasise his intentions, he is to leave for the Davis Cup tie in Italy after the tournament is over and will stay in Europe to begin practising on clay far earlier than usual. In doing so, he admits that he risks being overtaken by Andre Agassi, the No 2, who is still on course to meet Sampras in the final here for the second successive year.

The convoluted ranking system is again under review. Sampras supports a proposal, which has already been rejected by the Association of Tennis Professionals, that the players, instead of being rated on their results over the preceding 12 months, would start afresh at the beginning of each year.

"It sounds a good idea to have a race which everybody could understand," he said, but he appreciates that it is also flawed and carries potentially as many complications. "If the guys from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology can't figure it out, then I certainly won't be able to."

Sampras, the holder, has conceded only 18 games in his three matches so far. He was granted a day off yesterday before his quarter-final with Andrei Medvedev, the No 10 seed, who saved a match point before eliminating Mark Woodford. Agassi's progress has been even smoother. He has thus far yielded a mere 15 games.

Marianne Werdel Witmeyer, of the United States, is not concerned about the ramifications of the present ranking system. In progressing as far as the quarter-final, the 27-year-old lifted herself from No 33 to No 26 in the world and with the promise of climbing even higher.

A semi-finalist at the Australian Open, she had already humbled Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the top seed, in the second round, but yesterday she was dismissed by Kimiko Date, of Japan, the No 7 seed, 6-1, 7-5.

Date reached the last four last year and tomorrow she will probably play Gabriela Sabatini, the No 5 seed, who won the title here in 1989 and is currently enjoying a resurgence.



Sam Torrance tees off yesterday during the Sunningdale Foursomes golf tournament, in which he is partnering Bernard Gallacher. The Scottish pair won their second-round match, on the New Course, 6 and 5. Results, page 37. Photograph: Kippa Matthews

Faldo fulfils American dream

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

WHEN you have won nearly \$500,000 from seven events and your stroke average after 26 rounds is 69.80, you are entitled to look pleased with yourself. When most of your drives go straight and many of your putts go in, when your swing remains firm and on plane and you are named as one of the favourites for the Masters, well, that is no less than you deserve, too.

So it is these days for Nick Faldo in the United States, where he is preparing for the Players' Championship here in Florida. It is nothing, seemingly, but glory, glory, glory. March may not have been much of a month for Julius Caesar, but it has been a bonanza for Nick Faldo. He won the Doral Ryder Open in the first week, came second the following week and tied for fifth last week. Of those 12 rounds, nine were in the sixties and they earned him \$283,000 (about £184,000) — \$23,583 per round, \$342 per stroke.

"Faldo is so tough and so good," Dave Marr, the respected former player turned television commentator, said.

"Just look at the way he fought to beat the cut last week. He needed to play his last three holes in one under par to make it and he did it in two under. It would have been so easy for him to miss the cut and blame the weather or something else for his performance. But no, he tried like hell. He has the heart of a lion."

Much has been made of the laughing and joking Faldo, the man whose television advertisement for Mizuno has acquired a cult following, the man whom American players describe as "a fun guy, one of

the funniest men out here". To the Americans, Faldo has been a revelation, appearing to enjoy himself, to be approachable in a way that he never had been in the past.

Actually, it is not only to the Americans that Faldo has been a surprise. Even those who have known him for years have been surprised at how quickly he has settled down in the United States these past few months.

"The big key to it all has been that I have stayed out here," Faldo said. He is renting a house at Lake Nona, Orlando, to which he returns

between tournaments and which his family fly out to as often as possible. Gill, his wife, and his family arrive tomorrow.

"I had four weeks on the West Coast, then two weeks off when I spent time with the family and I was able to practise," Faldo said. "Being at home and trying to practise in the British winter would have been no good. I have adapted to it well. Of course, I miss things about home. I miss decent bread, decent cars, roads with curves. It would be nice to drive a car and turn it rather than get into

it and just point it in the direction you want to go."

"It's been tough for Gill and the kids," Faldo continued. "She has to deal with all the questions from the kids. I think she would like an easier option." One option is that Faldo might move back, stock and barrel to the United States. He has hinted at this lately and will consider it when he reviews the year in the autumn. He will make a flying visit to Britain to compete in the Volvo PGA at Wentworth and then may not return again until just before the Open. In other words, he will have played once in Europe by mid-summer.

The Players' Championship, which starts today, is striving to become a major championship. This is a title that cannot be bestowed but is earned by longevity, importance and a number of other attributes. On one score, the quality of the field, it is doing well. It has the third strongest field of any event in recent times. It has 46 of the top 50 players in the Sony world rankings, the past eight Open champions, the past seven US Open champions, the top six from the European tour and 12 Europeans in all.

Devotion to duty shakes Davies

LAURA DAVIES is not a great one for preparing for a golf tournament in orthodox fashion — not even an important championship such as the Nabisco Dinah Shore, which starts at Mission Hills country club in Palm Springs today (Patricia Davies writes).

However, it was a professional commitment that led the world No 1 to travel from Arizona to the neighbouring state of California via distant Nashville, Tennessee — a round trip on scheduled flights that ended with a very shaken frequent flyer just glad to land.

"I thought I was going to die," Davies said of the last leg of the trip, from Los Angeles to Palm Springs, a short hop over the snow-capped San Jacinto mountains. "It was the

most scary flight I've had for years. We came over the mountains and dropped and dropped again and dropped again. I don't mind flying, but I don't like turbulence."

Davies made the trip because, as defending champion of the Sara Lee Classic, which is in Old Hickory, Tennessee, in May, she was asked to attend a press day and faced, she said, no more than an hour of interviews — devotion above and beyond the call of duty, even for someone who rarely plays golf on Mondays.

Last year, the Dinah Shore was one that got away from Davies. She three-putted the last and lost by a shot to Donna Andrews. Helen Alfredsson, the Swede who won in 1993, remains the only European winner.

Bonetat ushers Nicol to first-round exit

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

PETER NICOL, the Scottish champion, was unexpectedly defeated by Julien Bonetat, of France, a qualifier who shares both his coach and his training facilities in the first round of the Leuker British Open squash championships at the Cardiff International Arena yesterday.

Bonetat transferred late last year from his Paris base to the training camp built around Nicol in London by Neil Harvey, the former England captain, in the hope of improving on his ranking of No 27 in the world.

He drew understandably grudging applause from his new coach for ousting the 21-year-old Scot 15-14, 3-15, 17-15, 15-8 in 56 minutes. "Julien has applied himself to our new programme with great discipline," Harvey acknowledged. "He played brilliantly at the start and the finish against

Peter who, to be fair, is still lacking a bit of match fitness from a long tonsillitis bout earlier in the year."

Nicol was unlucky to lose the first game to a penalty stroke, after fighting back from 12-8 down to a single point tie-break bravely called by Bonetat. "Things might have developed differently if that point had gone the other way," Nicol said.

Indeed, misfortune was allied regularly to unease as Nicol, having dominated the second game in just three high-paced hands, allowed three game points to disappear in fanned errors at the end of the third and virtually gave up hope when, at 9-6 in the fourth, a drive from Bonetat struck a protruding wall panel and hopped over his racket.

Results, page 37

Sri Lanka win first overseas Test series

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lankan cricketers won their first Test series abroad yesterday by drawing the second game of the two-match series against New Zealand at Carisbrook.

Beaten by 241 runs in the first match, New Zealand were looking to make the running and end a miserable summer on a bright note, but they failed as Sri Lanka battered their ineffectual bowling to finish their second innings on 411, with an overall lead of 337 runs.

SRI LANKA: First Innings 233 (W P U J C Vase 51).

Second Innings:
A P Gurusinha b Su'a 127
D Samarasinghe b Su'a 6
S Randana c Parnis b Patel 28
P A de Silva c Murray b Patel 13
H P Tillekaranne c Murray b Patel 108
A Fernando c Parnis b Patel 90
C Dursunoglu c Fleming b Patel 11
W P U J C Vase c Parnis b Wainwright 3
P Wickramasinghe c Parnis b Wainwright 3
M Muralitharan not out 7
R Premadasa not out 1
Extras (b 6, lb 5, nb 3) 17
Total 471

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-69, 3-81, 4-273, 5-295, 6-344, 7-355, 8-377, 9-400.
BOWLING: Wainwright 38-8-121-2; Patel 57-20-66-4; Su'a 29-3-97-2; Pringle 22-6-55-0; Lumsden 24-4-14-1.
NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 307 (B A Young 84, S P Fleming 86, D N Patel 82, W P U J C Vase 6 for 67).
Second Innings:
B Young not out 0
D Murray not out 0
Total (for 0 wkt) 0
BOWLING: C Vase 0-1-0-0.
Match drawn.

□ Mark Ramprakash, Glen Chapple and the bulk of the England A squad that performed so successfully in India during the winter, where they won the A-Test series 3-0, have been selected for the English season's curtain raiser, a four-day match at Edgbaston against Warwickshire, which begins on April 18.

overseas A A West (Glasgow, Glasgow), B Chapple (Loughborough), D G G (Durban), J E R Galt (Leicester), D L Kemp (Glasgow), M C L (Glasgow), P A N (Leicester), M M Patel (Kent), M R Ramprakash (Middlesex), R D Stern (Yorkshire), M P Vaughan (Yorkshire), P N Wainwright (Middlesex).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

ANONOST

(b) In fishes, one of the inter-spinal bones, the basal portion of a fin-ray. From the Greek *anoste* + *ostion* a bone. Median fins are rods of cartilage, each segmented into three pieces. The outer (dorsal) element is termed an *isoste*, the inner (proximal) element an *anonost*.

CANK

(c) The name in the former Midland coalfields for a hard ferruginous sandstone, also *canalstone*, local dialect. "Some less regular sandstone beds, called *Canalstone*, approach very nearly to the nature of the gneiss or cilliar rocks of the coal strata."

EUCOMIS

(d) A plant of the liliaceous genus so named, comprising certain bulbous plants native to southern and tropical Africa, having a crown of large leaves on the flower-spikes. From the Greek *eukomis* fair-haired, beautiful-headed, *eu* fair + *komē* hair.

BILIKEN

(e) A small, squat, smiling figure used as a mascot, probably from *billy* + *kin*. P. G. Wodehouse, *Man Upstairs*, 1914: "When you send a girl three bouquets, a bracelet, and a gold biliken with ruby eyes, you do not expect an entire absence of recognition."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rh5! Kxh5; 2. Nf7! Rxf7; 3. Qxh5! and White wins easily on material.

RADIO CHOICE

Another lady vanishes

Missing, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Elizabeth Baines's drama is about a young mother (Naomi Radcliffe) who vanishes. It has more than a touch of the documentary about it. There is hardly any conversation, only long statements from the husband (Andy Ward) and mother-in-law (Brigit Forsyth), and the passage of time is tersely marked by the narrator: "June 11, midday", and so on. There is no apparent reason for the mother's disappearance. But that does not stop her husband and mother-in-law having guilt feelings about things said and unsaid, and about ignoring what might have been warning signs. Some of the lines, such as "A dog is a heart beating in the dark, cold small hours", fit awkwardly into the play's realistic framework.

Stranger than Fiction, Radio 4, 8.45pm.

The third writer in this series of Lent lectures is David Gemmell. He writes fantasy novels. So, naturally enough, the case he makes out is the one that presents Jesus as the ultimate fantasy hero. The question he asks, and in my view persuasively answers, is why Jesus, a man of peace, should have attracted a greater band of followers than all the conquerors in history put together. Without once drawing his sword in the manner of Alexander the Great, Hercules and Richard the Lionheart, he defeated all the demons known to man. The ultimate hero, says Gemmell, fought the ultimate battle — the war for hearts and minds.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 12.00pm News 12.30 12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Dave Warren, including at 5.30 5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite Lounge 10.00 Sleep reveals the song that changed her life 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 4.00am Lyn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Radio 2 News 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.15 Radio 2 News 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Humphord 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Peel 7.00 Dave Warren, including at 5.30 5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite Lounge 10.00 Sleep reveals the song that changed her life 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 4.00am Lyn Parsons

RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Radio 3 Preview 8.55 The Magazine, including at 9.40 Film Review 10.30 Endreus 11.00 Out Loud 12.00 Midday with Alan 2.00pm Radio 3 News 3.00pm News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 3.55pm News 4.00pm News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 4.55pm News 5.00pm News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 5.55pm News 6.00pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 6.55pm News 7.00pm News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 7.55pm News 8.00pm News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 8.55pm News 9.00pm News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 9.55pm News 10.00pm News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 10.55pm News 11.00pm News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 11.55pm News 12.00pm News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 12.55pm News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 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Soundbites, gay dogs and jumping fleas

One of the more mystifying aspects of not drinking much alcohol is that even so I sometimes lurch away from the television in the kind of hallucinogenic state normally associated with the devil of a thrash. I can explain a head-swimming with flies that live in a butterfly's ear, fleas that can jump 30,000 times without pause, a media circus that lives in the belly of a politician and a man who inhabits two worlds every week?

No wonder *The Times* has its own doctor and if Thomas Stunzford is reading this, perhaps he could meet me at the end of this column with a hypodermic full of something calming.

Meantime, the last shall be first: last night's *Modern Times* (BBC2) was called *Weekenders* and I approached it with some dread. Here we go again, the awful media obsession with town versus country once more offering the chance

to polarise opinions and lambast stereotypes. It was not quite that bad but it was bad enough.

Weekenders are of course people who spend their weekends in the country and they include a single man with a dog. During the week, in London, they are called Ivan and Sasha respectively and they drive about in a Ferrari. At the weekends, at his flat in a country mansion, Ivan calls himself Ken, his dog becomes Colin and his car becomes a Morris Minor.

The greatest of these injustices is the one perpetrated on the dog, for surely Sasha is a female name and Colin is a male one? I thought as much. My own dog is called Jasper and lives in the country but when I go to town I do not call him Mirabelle or Antonia because I fear some kind of gender identity crisis which could end up with him/her being named at an Out-Rage! press conference.

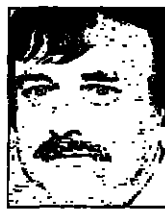
Others in the programme were

neurer to being normal, but they were not so much to be laughing at. One couple lived at weekends on a caravan site and appeared to spend most of their time rehearsing for one of those how-many-people-can-fit-in-a-phone-box competitions.

They entertained roughly twice the number of fellow caravanners who could comfortably fit around a table and when they were not doing that the same number were jammed into the site's sauna: the body heat must have rendered the steamed redundant. All this in the cause of a relaxing weekend.

The saviour of the entire piece was the teenage son of a couple who own a house by a Cotswolds lake on which 60 horse power outboard engines towing skiers give the place all the acoustic calm of a lawn mower factory on overtime. The son, public school educated, recounted

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

his first sight of this estate: "I looked at the rooftops and thought, very pretty... oh no, Eldorado". This lad had previously "never spoken" to anyone not educated at public school but here found himself meeting "people from all over, Ireland, Birmingham...". Gracious me, what an alarming experience. But no: the boy got to like these accented plebs and now thinks "it's fun".

Two teenage girls had more mixed feelings about their parents' hideaway, the calm of which was reached on a Friday night after hideous fights over what luggage to take and whether anyone had remembered the dog (which may have hidden under a bed for fear of turning bisexual in the back of a Morris Minor).

One of the girls loves the country and is regarded by her sister as "sassy" while the said one regards her bored younger sister as "an airhead". There are of course people on the planet who can have a relaxing weekend away without taking most of their possessions, changing their names, traumatising their dogs or alienating their children, but there was little sign of them last night.

Back in London, Four Millbank is the latest modish address, the new home for almost all the television news that is generated by Parliament across the road.

Roger Bolton's film for *Dispatches* (Channel 4) was part of the *Weekenders* series and was supposed to be about news management.

Well, all right. I suppose it was about news management, but managing the news is hardly a hot development and nothing here gave cause for further concern. The incidentals tended to be more interesting than the broad points: apparently Teresa Gorman spends so much time talking to a camera she has become known as the MP for Millbank.

Bolton spent some useful time on the increasing use of video news releases, in which organisations with their own axe to grind offer ready-made video tapes of supposed news events. But that is not the problem: the problem arises when editing becomes lazy and journalists cease to plough their own furrow. But when they do, are they

generating more heat than light? Robin Cribb, the political editor of the BBC (and a former colleague on this newspaper), admitted that with limited time it was often only possible to give two extreme views on a particular issue, a trait for which both the BBC and ITV are notorious. The mainstream is the principal engine of policy, yet the loudest motors are the auxiliaries on the fringe.

Which leaves brief space for Miriam Rothschild, the scientist and naturalist since childhood. Her contribution to the BBC's Science Week was to open a series called *Seven Wonders of the World* (BBC2) by naming as her own wonders the jump of the flea and the ear mite, which lives inside one ear of the garden tiger moth. And only ever inside one ear, not the other. How does it get there? By walking up the tongue, possibly. A little gem of a programme. Now where's that spring?

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (7777) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (9506878) 9.05 Kilroy (s) (5957149)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7335830) 10.05 EastEnders - The Early Days (r) (Ceefax) (6342033)
- 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (7694897)
- 12.00 News; Regional News and Weather; Weather (1103588) 12.05pm Pebble Mill presented by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (7369101) 12.55 Regional News and Weather (15509507)
- 1.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (84712)
- 1.30 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (568168) Northern Ireland Inside (568168)
- 1.50 Going for Gold (s) (7257897)
- 2.15 FILM: *Hollywood or Bust* (1958). Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis are friends who win a car in a sweepstakes. Directed by Frank Tashlin (551782)
- 3.50 Jackanory: Billy Plink's Private Detective Agency run by Sean McKenzie (s) (8526675)
- 4.00 Robinson Crusoe (Ceefax) (9753472)
- 4.25 Animal Hospital with Rolf Harris (s) (4907656)
- 4.35 Mud (s) (Ceefax) (1238491)
- 5.00 Newsround (2933675) 5.05 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (6739323)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (568168) Northern Ireland Inside (568168)
- 6.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (859)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (439) Northern Ireland Neighbours (439) Inside (439) (596304) Wales Wales Today (439)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops (s) (Ceefax) (2346)

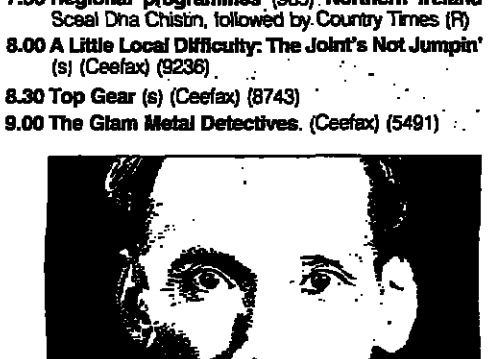


David Roper and Susan Tully (7.30pm)

- 7.30 EastEnders. Michelle has an answer for Geoff. (s) (Ceefax) (323)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital Week. A special Science Week edition. (s) (Ceefax) (1694)
- 8.30 Crown Prosecutor (s) (6471)
- 9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (Ceefax) (442878)
- 9.05 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (Ceefax) (840236)
- 9.35 *Jobs for the Girls* (s) (Ceefax) (585641)
- 10.25 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Glasgow. The guests are MPs Ian Lartid, Margaret Ewing, Donald Dewar and Ray Michie (654855) Northern Ireland Spotlight (431897)
- 11.05 Question Time (367946) 11.55 Inside Usher News (940878) 12.00 Cagney and Lacey (5729908) Wales The Slate (392336) 11.05 Question Time (593585) 12.05 Cagney and Lacey (5729908) 12.50 FILM: *Skin Game* (539163) 2.30 News Headlines; Weather (395076)
- 11.25 Cagney and Lacey. A seemingly insignificant case threatens to turn into a major investigation. (r) (Ceefax) (328255)
- 12.10am FILM: *Skin Game* (1971). Two women pose as master and slave. Starring James Garner, Lou Gossett and Ed Asner. Directed by Paul Bogart. (Ceefax) (752705)
- 1.50 *Weekenders* (6340811)

BBC2

- 6.20am Open University: Biology Form and Function (7816526) 6.45 Organic Chemistry (2662410) 7.10 Animal Behaviour (5952656) 7.35 Drifting Continents (5555781) 8.00 British News (Signed and Ceefax) (2229491) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil (s) (4717014)
- 9.00 Square One TV (5012235) 9.20 Mappesphere (s) (502472) 9.40 You and Me (subtitles) (s) (9794752) 9.45 Come Outside (s) (5173217) 10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (8360439)
- 10.25 Teaching Today (8363526) Northern Ireland Study Ireland
- 10.55 Watch: Homes across Europe (s) (Ceefax) (4419588) 11.10 Healthline 2 (s) (6434897) Northern Ireland Ceefax pages (s) 11.30 Landmarks: Pakistan and its People (s) (Ceefax) (9823830) 11.50 Mad About Music (s) (4662007) 12.10pm Short Circuit (5612946) 12.30 Working Lunch (36239) 1.00 Lifeschool (s) (5756211) 1.25 History File (s) (8729855) 1.45 Children's TV
- 3.00 News; Weather; Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (4835323)
- 3.50 News; Weather; Regional News and Weather (Ceefax) (8524217) 4.00 Today's Day (s) (192) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (236) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (s) (Ceefax) (3610878) 5.40 Glynis Christian's Entertaining Microwaves (r) (526675) 6.00 Quantum Leap (r) (s) (Ceefax) (457410)
- 6.45 They Who Dare (s) (Ceefax) (307025)
- 7.00 Waiting for God. (r) (s) (Ceefax) (1548)
- 7.30 Regional programmes (935) Northern Ireland Social Dna Chislin, followed by Country Times (r)
- 8.00 A Little Local Difficulty: The Joint's Not Jumpin' (s) (Ceefax) (9236)
- 8.30 Top Gear (s) (Ceefax) (8743)
- 9.00 The Glam Metal Detectives. (Ceefax) (5491)



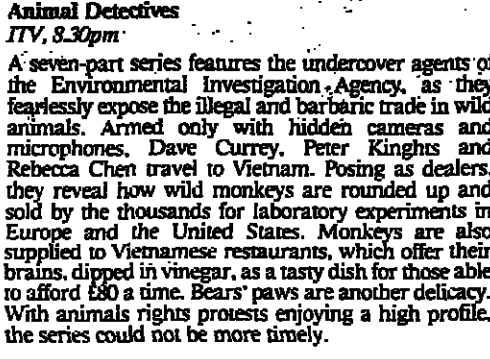
Ho Chi Minh was America's ally (8.30pm)

- 9.30 *Timewatch* (s) (Ceefax) (497912)
- 10.20 Russian Wonderland (742675)
- 10.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (Subtitles) (644762)
- 10.35 Newsnight (Ceefax) (605743) 11.20 Late Review (s) (558217) 12.00 Open View (s) (585055) 12.10 The Chemistry of Almost Everything (905502) 12.35 The Record (s) (4112279) Ends at 1.05
- 4.00 BBC Select: The Hitachi Royal Institution Discourse (43163). Ends at 5.00
- 5.30 RCN Nursing Update (r) (34434)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are "Video PlusCodes". Numbers which allow you to programme your VCR to record a programme. A "Video PlusCode" can be used with most VCRs. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 147474 or visit our website at www.video-plus.co.uk. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 147474 or visit our website at www.video-plus.co.uk. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 147474 or visit our website at www.video-plus.co.uk.

CHOICE

- Timewatch: Uncle Ho and Uncle Sam BBC2, 9.30pm
- Two Vietnam War anniversaries - 40 years since the American troops went in, 20 years since Saigon fell - are the cue for an ironic prologue to the conflict which begins in May 1945. Vietnam is occupied by the Japanese and American forces are determined to dislodge them. Who should the Americans choose as ally, the Ho Chi Minh, the Moscow-trained Communist later to be reviled as an enemy of the free world? A bargain is struck. Ho is to supply intelligence about Japanese troop movements, while the Americans will arm and train Ho's guerrillas. The alliance soon crumbles but not before Ho is proclaimed as Vietnam's president. Survivors help to reconstruct an extraordinary episode.
- Naked News: The Tycoon. Channel 4, 9.00pm
- A four-part series on the American media opens with a profile of Ted Turner and his Cable News Network. Given Turner's outrageous personality and the flamboyant nature of his operation, there is much gripping material. One of Turner's aides says he lives on the edge of genius and madness. Turner's genius lies in believing his own absurd claims. Having helped to end the Cold War, he is now busy saving the world. He alone has a plan for ending hunger, cleaning up the environment and promoting peace. Much acclaimed for its coverage of the Gulf War, when it had reporters in the all the right places, CNN is now fighting for viewers. Undaunted, Turner pursues his latest scoop, an interview with the elusive Fidel Castro.
- Animal Detectives. ITV, 8.30pm
- A seven-part series features the undercover agents of the Environmental Investigation Agency, as they secretly expose the illegal and barbaric trade in wild animals. Armed only with hidden cameras and microphones, Dave Curry, Peter King and Rebecca Chen travel to Vietnam. Posing as dealers, they reveal how wild monkeys are rounded up and sold by the thousands for laboratory experiments in Europe and the United States. Monkeys are also supplied to Vietnamese restaurants, which offer their brains, dipped in vinegar, as a tasty dish for those able to afford £80 a time. Bears' paws are another delicacy. With animals rights protests enjoying a high profile, the series could not be more timely.



Quirke, Garrett and Robson (BBC1, 9.30pm)

- Jobs for the Girls BBC1, 9.30pm
- As far as singing goes, you would guess that Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson would be happiest belting out *Knees Up Mother Brown* in the saloon bar of a crowded pub. The programme does nothing to modify this impression as they prepare for a different challenge, to perform *Rule Britannia* before an audience of 9,000 at an open-air concert in north London. And that was not hard enough, they will be sharing the platform with a real singer, Lesley Garrett. Garrett's observation that good voices are born and not made takes on greater force as the pair croak and giggle their way through the verses. Among those offering advice are Michael Crawford, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Sir Edward Heath. Peter Waymark

CARTON

- 6.00 GMTV (7303885)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (s) (3743217) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8347588)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (7472168)
- 10.35 This Morning (26039439) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1189472)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2678255)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (r). (Teletext) (2653946) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (5760762)
- 1.55 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (3543025) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (7420726) 2.50 Gardeners' Diary. John Ravenscroft with seasonal advice (7718410)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6554149) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5646120)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (r) (2624339) 3.40 Wizardia (r) (s) (8222859) 3.50 Rupert (r) (5348025) 4.15 Antennas. (Teletext) (s) (8689846) 4.40 Fun Home. (Teletext) (s) (8682033)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating. (Teletext) (6723782)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (801410) 5.55 Your Show (388052)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (255)
- 6.30 London Tonight with Alistair Stewart and Fiona Forster. (Teletext) (507)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (7014)
- 7.30 3-D presented by Julia Somerville. This week's edition includes an investigation into the problem of compulsive shopping (s) (481)



Trouble for WPC Polly Page (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Bill: Stopping Time. Polly Page must find a hit-and-run driver. (Teletext) (6762)
- 8.30 *Animal Detectives: Monkeys*. (Teletext) (s) (5897)
- 9.00 Chiller: Toby. A pregnant woman loses her baby in a car crash. However, when she falls pregnant again she becomes convinced that she is haunted by the malevolent spirit of her lost child. (Teletext) (s) (9965)
- 10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (753781)
- 10.05 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (421410) 10.35 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (394676)
- 10.45 Revelations. Drama serial about a Church of England bishop and his family (s) (244965)
- 11.15 Big City. A London entertainment's guide (s) (241678)
- 11.45 The Powers That Be. Comedy series starring John Forth as an affable American senator with a pushy family (778033)
- 12.20am The Little Picture Film presented by Mariella Frostrup (r) (2450507)
- 1.20 The Beat. Music and movie magazine (r) (s) (6335278)
- 2.20 The Album Show (r) (s) (5699144)
- 3.15 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (68739231)
- 3.40 Sport AM. Includes golf from Portugal (r) (8756637)
- 4.35 Videofashion. New York collections (r) (78258231)
- 5.00 Vanessa (r). (Teletext) (s) (44076)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (21960). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Spiff and Hercules (2673526)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (81323)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (82304)
- 9.30 School: Middle English (163830) 9.45 The New Living Body (506439) 10.05 Scientific Eye (8454878) 10.27 Geographical Eye Over Africa (6682014) 10.50 Your World (854675) 11.00 History in Action (6423781) 11.20 Earth - The Home Planet (6037743) 11.40 The German Programme (4651491)
- 12.00 House To House. Behind-the-scenes with Maya Egan (12168)
- 12.30 Sesame Street (36507) 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Animation (r) (s) (35420878)
- 1.55 Channel 4 Rising. From Doncaster and Nad Al-Sheba. Dubai. Live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 races from Doncaster interspersed with live action from Dubai where Frankie Dettori competes in the four rounds of the International Jockeys' Challenge (s) (48395472)
- 4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (304)
- 5.00 Pick Lake. The guests include a girl who has dropped out of school because she claims she can learn all she needs to know from television. (Teletext) (s) (868965)
- 5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (378675)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (r). (Teletext) (887)
- 6.30 Saved By The Bell: The College Years. Campus comedy. (Teletext) (149)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (385149)
- 7.55 Whose News?: Examiner Bulletins (s) (441675)
- 8.00 Allen Nations. In the last of the series Andy Kershaw is in Berlin to investigate the plight of the immigrant Turks. (Teletext) (s) (4304)
- 8.30 Food File. Cuisine magazine. Includes a search for Britain's oldest butcher's shop. (Teletext) (s) (3439)
- 9.00 *Whose News?: Naked Truth - The Tycoon*. (Teletext) (s) (7507)
- 10.00 FILM: In the Eyes of a Stranger (1992) starring Justine Bateman and Richard Dean Anderson. A drama about a murder witness who discovers the whereabouts of the proceeds of a \$2 million robbery and then seduces the policeman assigned to protect her. Directed by Michael Toshiyuki Uno. (Teletext) (265520)
- 11.45 *Whose News?: And Finally*. The last in the week's series on alternative approaches to the news, presented by Sheila McDonald. (Teletext) (225491)
- 12.50am Manufacturing Consent: Naomi Chomsky and the Media. The second and final part of the film examining Naomi Chomsky's views on the media (r) (2840811)
- 1.50 *Whose News?: Dispatches* (r). (Teletext) (9600182)
- 2.40 FILM: *Sweetheart of the Campus* (1941, b/w) starring Ruby Keeler. A musical about a dancer who helps save a college from closure. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (4853827). Ends at 3.50



Media mogul Ted Turner of CNN (9.00pm)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (7721236) 2.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 3.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 4.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 5.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 6.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 7.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 8.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 9.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 10.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 11.50 The Young Doctors (7721236) 12.50 The Young Doctors (7721236)
- CENTRAL**
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- GRANDRA**
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- HTV WEST**
As London except: 2.55 Gardening Time (7245506) 3.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 4.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 5.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 6.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 7.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 8.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 9.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 10.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 11.55 The Country Practice (7245506) 12.55 The Country Practice (7245506)
- HTV WALES**
As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Today (491) 10.35 HTV Wales News (243485) (348478) 10.45 Wales Today (41878) 11.45 3-D (78933)
- MERIDIAN**
As London except: 6.55am-10.35 Meridian News and Weather (121762) 12.20pm Meridian News (1199472) 1.55 A Country Practice

- (7721236) 2.50-3.30 Shortland Street (771810) 3.35-3.50 Meridian News and Weather (564123) 5.10 Home and Away (722762) 5.37-5.40 Meridian News (654855) 5.55-6.00 Meridian News (654855) 6.05-6.10 Meridian News (654855) 6.15-6.20 Meridian News (654855) 6.25-6.30 Meridian News (654855) 6.35-6.40 Meridian News (654855) 6.45-6.50 Meridian News (654855) 6.55-7.00 Meridian News (654855) 7.05-7.10 Meridian News (654855) 7.15-7.20 Meridian News (654855) 7.25-7.30 Meridian News (654855) 7.35-7.40 Meridian News (654855) 7.45-7.50 Meridian News (654855) 7.55-8.00 Meridian News (654855) 8.05-8.10 Meridian News (654855) 8.15-8.20 Meridian News (654855) 8.25-8.30 Meridian News (654855) 8.35-8.40 Meridian News (654855) 8.45-8.50 Meridian News (654855) 8.55-9.00 Meridian News (654855) 9.05-9.10 Meridian News (654855) 9.15-9.20 Meridian News (654855) 9.25-9.30 Meridian News (654855) 9.35-9.40 Meridian News (654855) 9.45-9.50 Meridian News (654855) 9.55-10.00 Meridian News (654855) 10.05-10.10 Meridian News (654855) 10.15-10.20 Meridian News (654855) 10.25-10.30 Meridian News (654855) 10.35-10.40 Meridian News (654855) 10.45-10.50 Meridian News (654855) 10.55-11.00 Meridian News (654855) 11.05-11.10 Meridian News (654855) 11.15-11.20 Meridian News (654855) 11.25-11.30 Meridian News (654855) 11.35-11.40 Meridian News (654855) 11.45-11.50 Meridian News (654855) 11.55-12.00 Meridian News (654855) 12.05-12.10 Meridian News (654855) 12.15-12.20 Meridian News (654855) 12.25-12.30 Meridian News (654855) 12.35-12.40 Meridian News (654855) 12.45-12.50 Meridian News (654855) 12.55-1.00 Meridian News (654855) 1.05-1.10 Meridian News (654855) 1.15-1.20 Meridian News (654855) 1.25-1.30 Meridian News (654855) 1.35-1.40 Meridian News (654855) 1.45-1.50 Meridian News (654855) 1.55-2.00 Meridian News (654855) 2.05-2.10 Meridian News (654855) 2.15-2.20 Meridian News (654855) 2.25-2.30 Meridian News (654855) 2.35-2.40 Meridian News (654855) 2.45-2.50 Meridian News (654855) 2.55-3.00 Meridian News (654855) 3.05-3.10 Meridian News (654855) 3.15-3.20 Meridian News (654855) 3.25-3.30 Meridian News (654855) 3.35-3.40 Meridian News (654855) 3.45-3.50 Meridian News (654855) 3.55-4.00 Meridian News (654855) 4.05-4.10 Meridian News (654855) 4.15-4.20 Meridian News (654855) 4.25-4.30 Meridian News (654855) 4.35-4.40 Meridian News (654855) 4.45-4.50 Meridian News (654855) 4.55-5.00 Meridian News (654855) 5.05-5.10 Meridian News (654855) 5.15-5.20 Meridian News (654855) 5.25-5.30 Meridian News (654855) 5.35-5.40 Meridian News (654855) 5.45-5.50 Meridian News (654855) 5.55-6.00 Meridian News (654855) 6.05-6.10 Meridian News (654855) 6.15-6.20 Meridian News (654855) 6.25-6.30 Meridian News (654855) 6.35-6.40 Meridian News (654855) 6.45-6.50 Meridian News (654855) 6.55-7.00 Meridian News (654855) 7.05-7.10 Meridian News (654855) 7.15-7.20 Meridian News (654855) 7.25-7.30 Meridian News (654855) 7.35-7.40 Meridian News (654855) 7.45-7.50 Meridian News (654855) 7.55-8.00 Meridian News (654855) 8.05-8.10 Meridian News (654855) 8.15-8.20 Meridian News (654855) 8.25-8.30 Meridian News (654855) 8.35-8.40 Meridian News (654855) 8.45-8.50 Meridian News (654855) 8.55-9.00 Meridian News (654855) 9.05-9.10 Meridian News (654855) 9.15-9.20 Meridian News (654855) 9.25-9.30 Meridian News (654855) 9.35-9.40 Meridian News (654855) 9.45-9.50 Meridian News (654855) 9.55-10.00 Meridian News (654855) 10.05-10.10 Meridian News (654855) 10.15-10.20 Meridian News (654855) 10.25-10.30 Meridian News (654855) 10.35-10.40 Meridian News (654855) 10.45-10.50 Meridian News (654855) 10.55-11.00 Meridian News (654855) 11.05-11.10 Meridian News (654855) 11.15-11.20 Meridian News (654855) 11.25-11.30 Meridian News (654855) 11.35-11.40 Meridian News (654855) 11.45-11.50 Meridian News (654855) 11.55-12.00 Meridian News (654855) 12.05-12.10 Meridian News (654855) 12.15-12.20 Meridian News (654855) 12.25-12.30 Meridian News (654855) 12.35-12.40 Meridian News (654855) 12.45-12.50 Meridian News (654855) 12.55-1.00 Meridian News (654855) 1.05-1.10 Meridian News (654855) 1.15-1.20 Meridian News (654855) 1.25-1.30 Meridian News (654855) 1.35-1.40 Meridian News (6

RACING 35

TRACKING DOWN
SHAIKH MOHAMMED
TO HIS DESERT LAIR

SPORT

THURSDAY MARCH 23 1995

Atkinson installs Scot as Midland club's managerial apprentice

Strachan makes Coventry move

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RON ATKINSON'S short-term impact at Coventry City has been typically dazzling. Three wins and three draws from seven matches had already alleviated short-term fears of relegation from the FA Carling Premiership before, yesterday, Atkinson began to shape the long-term future at Highfield Road when he signed Gordon Strachan, the former Scotland and Leeds United midfielder, as his assistant.

Strachan, 38, accepted a three-year contract that included a novel clause. He will move from apprentice to sorcerer in two years, when he will be offered the team manager's job in succession to Atkinson. Leeds tried to persuade Strachan to stay at Elland Road, by proposing a similar deal, but he turned them down.

Although Strachan, who made 50 appearances for Scotland, has retained his playing registration, he is unlikely to feature in Coventry's closing league programme. "I don't expect to play first-team football unless we get a lot of injuries," he said. "I'm more interested in the coaching side at the moment, but I would like to play in the reserves, as I did at Leeds."

"I enjoyed my stay in Leeds, I liked the people and I got close to them. The club was a sleeping giant and we were on a rollercoaster of emotion in my six years there. I've no idea of the potential at Coventry, that is something I have to find out. Maybe you could not describe Coventry as a sleeping giant, but, sometimes, when you have a gut feeling about a job, you have to ride with it."

Atkinson signed Strachan from Aberdeen in 1984, when he was manager of Manchester United, and he won an FA Cup winners' medal in 1985, when United beat Everton 1-0, after extra time, at Wembley. However, Strachan fell from grace when Atkinson left Old Trafford, to be replaced by Alex Ferguson, and joined Leeds for £300,000 in March 1989. He captained Leeds to the second division title in his first full year and

then the league championship two years later. Leslie Silver, the Leeds chairman, said yesterday: "Gordon's contribution as a player and captain here was truly magnificent. He played a leading role in re-establishing Leeds as a major force in English football and he rightly deserves his place in Leeds United's hall of fame."

A persistent back injury forced Strachan to end his playing career in January and

move to the backroom staff at Elland Road, where he has been coaching the club's youngsters. He is the third signing since Atkinson took over from Phil Neal last month. He bought Kevin Richardson, a midfielder player, from Aston Villa, who dismissed Atkinson in November, and David Burrows, a full back, from Everton.

"In a couple of years' time, Gordon will be taking over the role of team manager of the club," Atkinson said. "Prior to that, he will have a couple of years learning the business or more about it than he already knows. Hopefully, it will be the start of a very long association for him with Coventry City."

Longer, perhaps, than Brian Horton's with Manchester City. Defeat by Wimbledon on Tuesday night intensified speculation that Horton is shortly to lose his managerial seat at Maine Road as the club slips closer to the relegation zone. An unhappy Francis Lee, the City chairman, visited the dressing-room after the match and left the players in no doubts about his feelings.

However, the club denied last night that a board meeting today would discuss Horton's future. It is thought the club may wait until the end of the season before making any decision. Today sees the season's transfer deadline and the market witnessed several pre-

liminary skirmishes yesterday before the all-out trading extravaganza expected this morning. Brett Angell, the Everton forward, was considering a move to Sunderland, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League first division side, after the clubs agreed a fee of £500,000.

"Brett has had limited opportunities here and has been unfortunate with injuries," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "After coming back, he has found others ahead of him in the queue, but he should do well at Sunderland. He has proved he is a good player at that level." Angell, 26, has also played for Stockport County and Southend United. Twenty-four hours after

signing Mark Kennedy, 18, the Millwall striker, for £2 million, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, concluded further deals of a rather less dramatic nature. He has enlisted Alec Chamberlain, the Sunderland goalkeeper, on loan until the end of the season as cover for David James and allowed Dominic Matteo, the Anfield defender, to make the reverse trip to Roker Park - again, on loan and probably for the rest of the season.

Malcolm Allison, 67, the former Manchester City and Crystal Palace manager, is believed to be involved in a multi-million pound bid to buy control of Gillingham, the ailing Endsleigh third division club.

GOLF 38

FEARLESS FALDO
MARCHES TO
TUNES OF GLORY

Cooper struck down during filming session

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THE former Scotland winger, Davie Cooper, suffered a brain haemorrhage yesterday while taking part in the filming of a coaching programme for Scottish Television at Broadwood Stadium in Cumbernauld.

Cooper, 39, was filming with Charlie Nicholas, of Celtic, and the Scotland Under-21 coach, Tommy Craig, when he collapsed. First-aid staff were on hand and he was initially taken to the nearest hospital at Monklands. However, he was moved to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, where a hospital spokesman later described his condition as "very serious".

The enduring fitness of Cooper made the news of his condition all the more shocking. He has recently been coaching and, intermittently, playing for Clydebank, although he planned to retire in the summer.

He is one of the most naturally gifted footballers to emerge in Scotland. Clydebank was his first club but the bulk of his career was spent with Rangers, for whom he signed in 1977. He played 397 matches for the club, won every domestic honour and was lionised by supporters.

For Scotland, he scored the penalty against Wales that effectively clinched a place at the 1986 World Cup finals and it is his country's loss that he was only capped on 22 occasions. Even so, such was his enduring brilliance that only injury kept him out of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, when he was 34.

In 1989, Cooper, who was born in Lanarkshire, signed for Motherwell. Anyone who thought Cooper a spent force was mistaken and his club took the Scottish Cup in 1991.

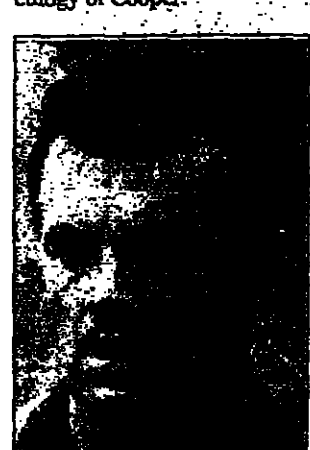
The Motherwell chairman, John Chapman, said yesterday: "The enthusiasm he generated was incredible and his worth to us was incalculable. When he came to Fir Park, season ticket sales took off and the whole team began to blossom."

Rob McKinnon, the Motherwell and Scotland full back, described his partnership with Cooper as "the best learning experience I have had in football". He added, "I'll say a prayer for the guy. That's all I can do."

The virtuosity of his style produced some remarkable

goals, which are incessantly replayed on video and television. Cooper enlivened a Glasgow Cup final in 1979 with a run in which he lobbed the ball over a series of Celtic defenders before scoring with a nonchalant finish. Of more significance was the free kick he converted for Rangers against Aberdeen in the 1987 Scot Cup final, which he bludgeoned into the net with extraordinary accuracy.

In those peak years with Rangers, Cooper seemed to have a limited interest in international football and the regimentation it now requires, but he has still acquired an international reputation. When asked, a few years ago, about Scottish footballers who had impressed him, the great Dutch player, Ruud Gullit immediately launched into a eulogy of Cooper.



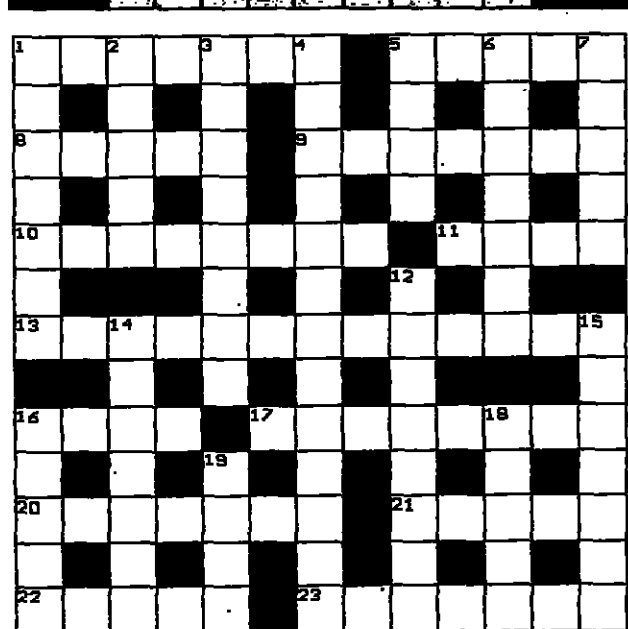
Cooper: brilliant

His old-fashioned dribbling and exquisite left-footed skills have also delighted the ordinary football supporter. The widespread pleasure Cooper has given ensure that distress over his condition is felt throughout Scotland.

Craig Levein, the Heart of Midlothian defender, is doubtful for Scotland's European championship qualifier against Russia in Moscow next week. Levein suffered an ankle injury in the 1-1 draw with Dundee United on Tuesday and there are fears there could be ligament damage. However, it is thought he may be fit to meet Albania in the Scottish Cup semi-finals next month.

Theo Snijders, the Aberdeen goalkeeper, could be out of action for a month after suffering a broken bone in his foot during a goalless draw with Hibernian on Saturday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 427

- ACROSS
- 1 Baggie theme/variety (7)
 - 5 Mark of disgrace; Ibsen play (5)
 - 8 Part of verb; strained (5)
 - 9 Strange (in order to rob) (7)
 - 10 Social Contract, Confessions author (8)
 - 11 Feel absence; girl (4)
 - 13 Obscurity (13)
 - 16 Rugged rock (4)
 - 17 (Aircraft) with double gangway (4-4)
 - 20 Awaited liberator (7)
 - 21 Heather (5)
 - 22 Ancient MS volume (5)

- SOLUTION TO NO 426
- ACROSS: 1 Belloc 5 Bole 8 Shun 9 Thorough 10 All hands 11 Gene 12 Intact 14 Outwit 16 Char 18 Re-course 20 Composer 21 Taps 22 Ahoj 23 Speedy
- DOWN: 2 Echelon 3 Lunch 4 Cut and thrust 5 Brought 6 Logan 7 House of cards 13 Atrophy 15 Inisipid 17 Hooch 19 Uzie

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Tonks vacates New Zealand chair

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WALES may have their problems on the field but yesterday New Zealand, partners in the unsuccessful attempt to take the 1999 Rugby World Cup back to the southern hemisphere - the tournament was instead awarded to Wales - lost the chairman of their council, Eddie Tonks, who resigned unexpectedly at the start of the New Zealand Rugby Football Board (IRFB) annual meeting in Wellington.

Tonks, who had held the post for five years, had just returned from the annual meeting of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), of which he was chairman in 1993-94. "I have been considering my own position for some time now and only agreed to put my name forward as a candidate for council this year under some pressure from my colleagues," he said.

He succeeded Russ Thomas in 1990 and helped to introduce improved business methods to the union, in particular the marketing of the game in a period when the New Zealand RFU was growing ever more fearful of the impact of rugby league. The union has now turned for the next chairman not to Tonks's deputy, Rob Fisher, who was the former chairman's nominee, but to the conservative Richie Guy, from North Auckland.

There had been growing speculation that Guy, a former international prop who managed the 1987 World Cup-winning All Blacks, would challenge Tonks for the chair. "I am comfortable that I have contributed to the best of my ability... and believe now is the time to announce my retirement," Tonks said.

A successful director of a

food products company, Tonks has clashed on several occasions with Laurie Mains, coach to the All Blacks, and was also prominent in the bitter battle for the national coaching position last year, which eventually went to Mains ahead of John Hart, the former Auckland coach.

There must be speculation that Tonks had had enough of the confrontational atmosphere that has affected New Zealand rugby administration of late. He has handled numerous difficult issues, among them the loosening of the amateur bonds and the arrangements when New Zealand toured the first country to tour South Africa after they were readmitted to international competition in 1992.

Tonks has been forthright on the subject of amateurism: his country favours the complete repeal of the existing regulations, though such a move will not be determined until a special meeting of the IRFB in Paris in August. "Everything is positive at the moment, we're on the up and up and it's a good time to step down," he added. If, however, the All Blacks fail to distinguish themselves at the World Cup this summer, it seems likely that Guy's term in the chair will be comparatively brief.

Neil Jenkins, the Welsh stand-off half, has spoken to various clubs in Pretoria during Pontypridd's visit to South Africa to play Northern Transvaal this week. Jenkins intends to spend the remainder of the southern-hemisphere season in South Africa after the World Cup and may be joined by his club colleague, the lock Mark Rowley.

Blundell denies Mansell is out for season

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN SAO PAULO

MARK BLUNDELL, Nigel Mansell's emergency replacement for the first two Formula One grands prix of the season, last night dismissed rumours that the 1992 world champion might not compete in the championship at all because of doubts about the competitiveness of the McLaren team's new car.

Mansell has steadfastly refused to comment on his situation since it became apparent that he was unable to sit comfortably in the cockpit of the Mercedes-powered car. McLaren admitted last week that they were building a new chassis for him and that his season would begin at the San Marino Grand Prix, at Imola on April 30, and not here, in the Brazilian Grand Prix, on Sunday.

There have been suggestions that Mansell and Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, have quarrelled

about the driver's problems. Dennis will address a press conference here today, but Blundell insisted last night that he was not holding out any hopes of hanging on to the drive after the next race, in Argentina, in a fortnight. "Nigel Mansell will be back in a McLaren as soon as possible," Blundell said. "There is absolutely no doubt about

High price of success page 36

that Everything is being built around him and the team is responding to the problems he has with the car. I don't think there is any question of him not being back in the car for Imola."

Blundell, who was facing the prospect of a season without a drive, is hoping to impress other team owners during his brief spell behind the wheel. He has turned down offers to drive elsewhere in

the hope of forcing his way back into Formula One.

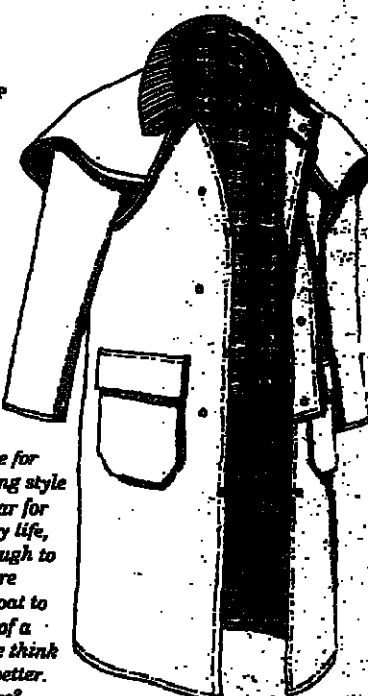
"I have gone from one end of the spectrum to the other," he said. "It is great to be back in the car again and a dream come true to be back at McLaren, where I was a test driver in 1992. But I have only done 30 laps of testing and I was taking it very easy, so my expectations for Sunday are not too high."

Fears that a bout of tonsillitis would force David Coulthard, the Williams-Renault driver, to miss the race receded yesterday. Coulthard was on the point of telephoning Frank Williams on Monday to tell him to send for Jean-Christophe Bouillon, the team's test driver. But the young Scot was feeling better yesterday.

"I will not be fully fit because I have not been able to train for nine days," he said. "Last weekend I thought my head was going to explode. But it is a relief to be improving. I will just have to do the best I can."

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Senior Tories fear MP may go bankrupt

SENIOR ministers are widely voicing fears that the Government's slim Commons majority could be further cut as a result of a Conservative MP going bankrupt, who would disqualify him from continuing as an MP and force another by-election.

Only a few ministers know the identity of the MP, who is understood to be fighting against heavy business debts. He has not been affected by the losses on the Lloyd's insurance market.

According to Conservative sources, the losses incurred by the MP go well beyond a normal rescue operation. It is understood that Mr. MP was helped financially during the last Parliament.

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